VISION COMICS
2
JULY 1996
$1.95 US
WALTER KITTY IN...
The Hollow Earth
ISSN 1084-1520 $1.95 US / $2.75 CANADA

NEWS UPDATE

Buyout Complications

The recent buyout (sell-out) of Capital City to Diamond Comic Distribution has caused a lot fo concern in the industry, with good cause. However, here at Vision Comics, it has caused more specific problems. We have been able to bring all of our titles to you, the reader, for only $1.95 -- a price that was remarkably low for the size of the print runs that we had on these titles. The secret to this low price lay in the discount rate that we were able to secure with Capital City; a rate which allowed us to recoup our investment and build towards a bigger, better future. Unfortunately, Diamond is nowhere near as accomodating. Not only were they unwilling to give us a favorable discount rate before, but they are unwilling to do so now. This means that all of the titles which we have solicited through them up to and including November (at $1.95) would be sold at nearly break-even, resulting in a number of months of loss after loss for us. Diamond is absolutely inflexible on this point, and will not change their rate, not even for these few intervening months. Obviously, we have been placed in a very bad spot.

There was really only one solution to this, as much as it galled us. We would have to cancel all of our upcoming titles and re-solicit them in the next Diamond catalogs... which were for December. This meant that we would basically cease coming out with comics entirely from July to December. But what choice do we have? None.

Cancellations & Delays

We will not be coming out with any new titles until the month of December. That means all of our listed and advertised titles will be delayed until then, including the American Journal of Anthropomorphics. While we apologize to our readers, the matter is beyond our control. However, our return to the comic market will be heralded by full page advertisements in both PREVIEWS, Diamond Dialogue and the ORDERBOOK. We will be hard to miss.

Unfortunately, we are delaying and re-soliciting for a reason. This reason is we need to raise our cover price to make up for the change in our distributor rate. This extra money doesn't go to us... it's not rapaciousness that caused this change (at least, not on our part). It goes directly to the comic stores and to Diamond.

The books will all be increasing in cost from their former $1.95 to approximately $2.25 to $2.50, depending on their page count, print run, circulation and other concerns. Those who have subscribed to our titles up until July will have those subscriptions honored. However, we cannot offer any rate substantially lower than cover price through direct sales. Our subscription rates have therefore changed. We are still committed to bringing our readers excellent entertainment at the lowest prices possible, and we thank all of you for your patience, support and understanding.

Convention Schedule

In November, Team Shanda and a Vision Comics Rep will be attending ConFurence East, in Ohio, while the main Vision Comics crew will be hitting the original site of CFE, PhilCon. Contact & Event info for these two shows are listed below.

PHILCON '96 November 22nd - 24th

Primary Focus: Science Fiction / Fantasy
Guest Speaker: Fred Pohl, SF Writer

The Adam's Mark Hotel, City Line & Monument Road, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, 19131.
(215) 581-5000

Email: philcon@netaxs.com
Web: http://www.netaxs.com/~philcon

CONFURENCE EAST '96 Nov 15th - 17th

Primary Focus: Funny Animal Art & Publications
Honored Guest: Paul Kidd, Fantasy Writer
Honored Guest: Susan Van Camp, Fantasy Artist
Honored Guest: Andrew Bates, White Wolf Staff Artist

For travel & additional hotel information, contact:

Ms. Susan "Trish" Ny, ConFurence East, 11037 Henning Drive, Chardon, Ohio, 44024-9796.
(216) 285-2207 (During Hours 9 AM to 10 PM EDT)

Email: cf-east@tigerden.com
Web: http://www.tigerden.com/CFEast

Company Expansion

Vision Comics is expanding, despite the current setbacks in terms of the Distributors. We're making the most of our time busily developing new titles and stories for our many readers. Right now, we're looking for new artists and writers! If you're a penciller, inker, letterer, colorist or illustrator, contact us! We're also looking into taking over the publishing of existing, creator-owned titles.

Vision Comics Group
Post Office Box 9
Flushing, New York, 11358

Phone Lines

(800) 667-7943 USA Toll-Free
(718) 359-5741 Flushing Office
(718) 359-2768 Flushing Fax
(516) 328-6900 New Hyde Park
(516) 328-6989 New Hyde Fax

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PRINTED IN CANADA

Part Two: "Foxx & Hound"

AT THE UNIVERSITY OF ARKVILLE, IN THE CLASSROOM OF DR. ROBERT FOXX...

...FURTHERMORE, IF SPIRITUALISM ACTUALLY WORKED -- I THINK WE'D SEE A LOT LESS SKEPTICISM THAN THERE IS...

...BUT THE ACTUAL DOCUMENTATION OF SUCH THINGS ELUDES US...

EXIT

...MAINLY BECAUSE THERE IS NO SUCH THING AS AN AFTERLIFE --!

— IT'S ALL BUNK! HOKUM! HOGWASH!

POUND!

--THE ONLY THINGS WE SHOULD BELIEVE IN ARE COLD, HARD, FACTS! -- IN THINGS THAT CAN BE SCIENTIFICALLY PROVEN!

BUT DR. FOXX...

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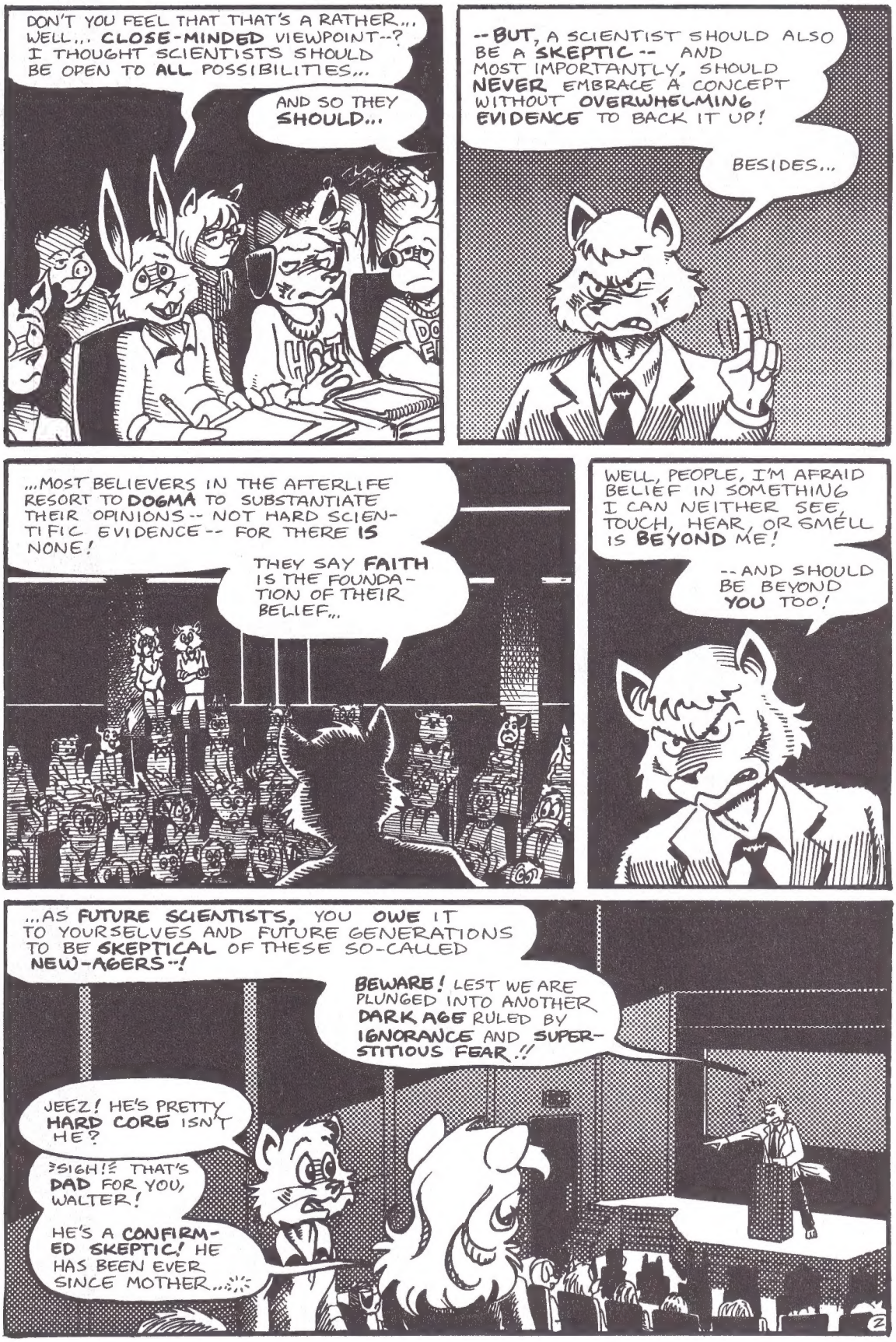
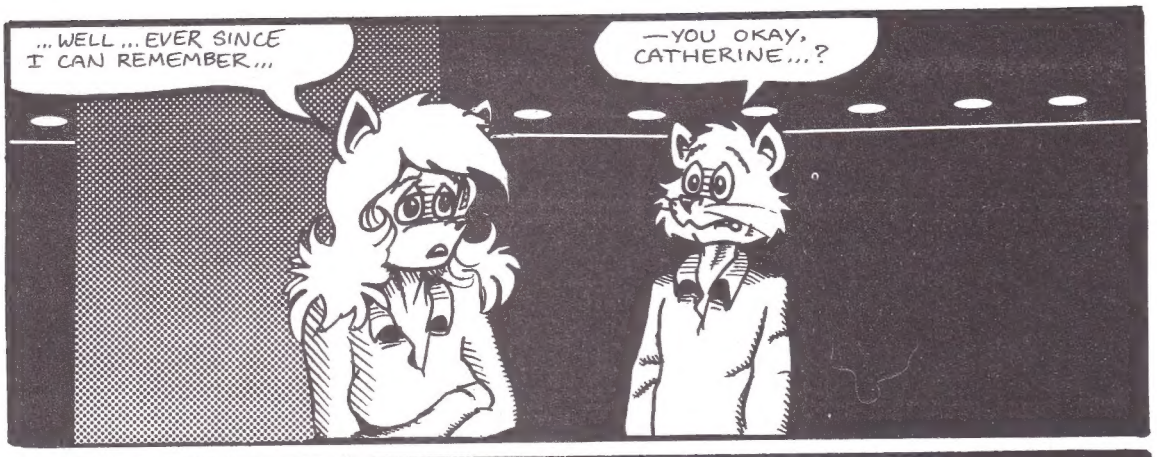
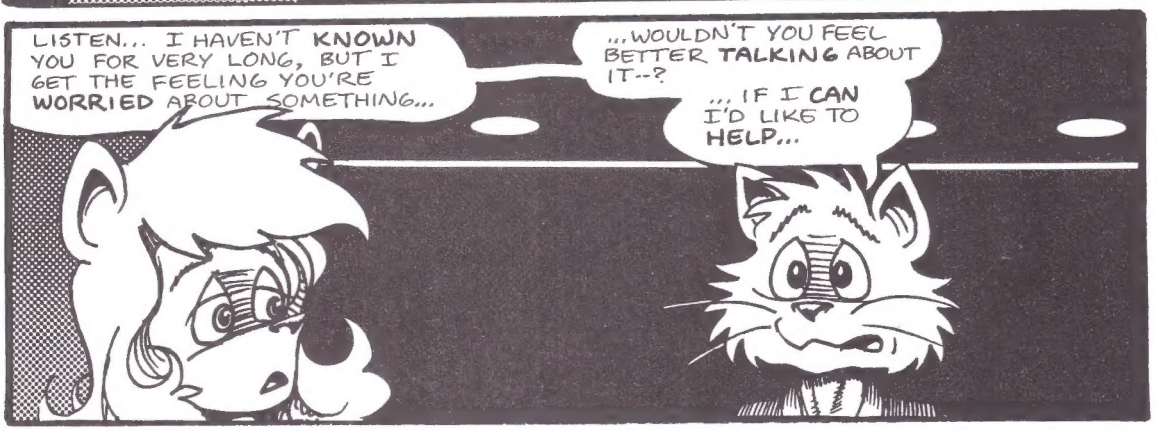
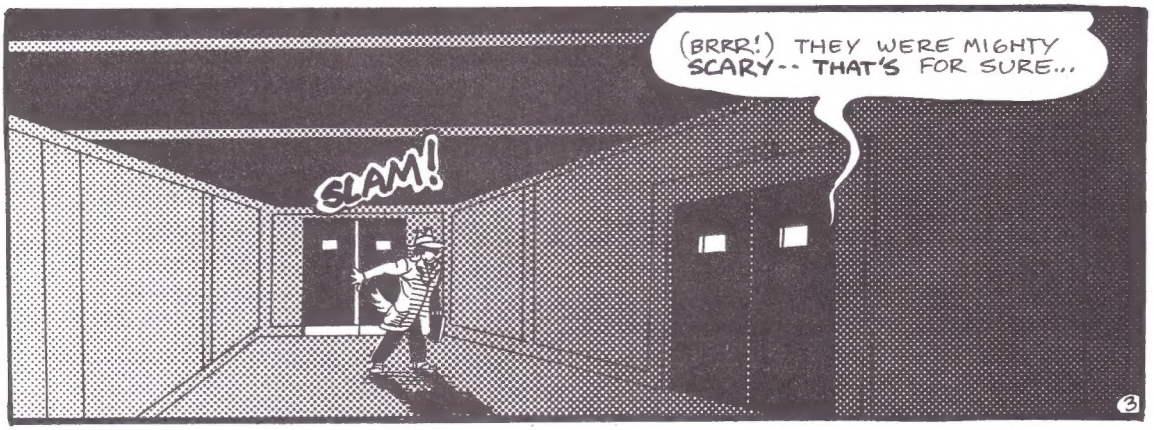
e-mail: sharkmaw@eden.com
Visit the Walter Kitty Web Page!
http://www.eden.com/~sharkmaw/

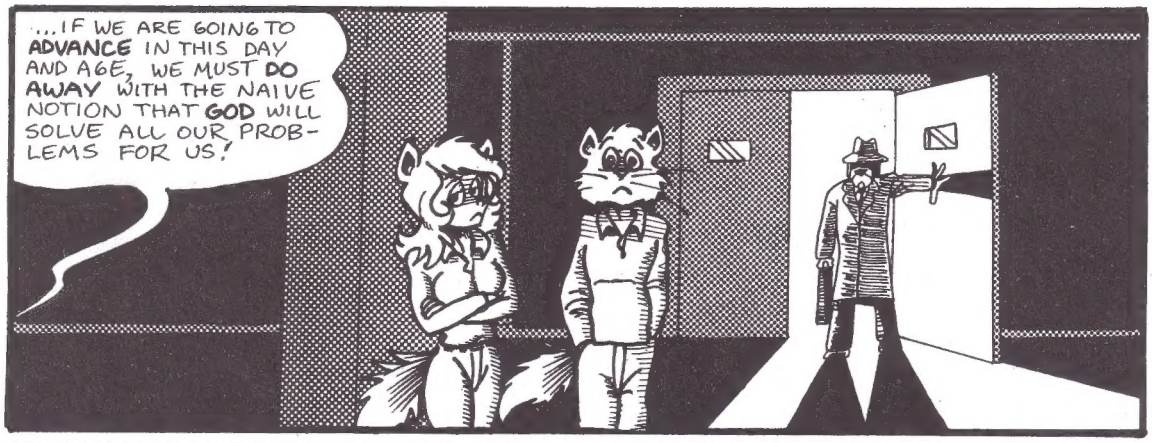

DON'T YOU FEEL THAT THAT'S A RATHER... WELL... CLOSE-MINDED VIEWPOINT--? I THOUGHT SCIENTISTS SHOULD BE OPEN TO ALL POSSIBILITIES...
AND SO THEY SHOULD...
--BUT, A SCIENTIST SHOULD ALSO BE A SKEPTIC -- AND MOST IMPORTANTLY, SHOULD NEVER EMBRACE A CONCEPT WITHOUT OVERWHELMING EVIDENCE TO BACK IT UP!
BESIDES...
...MOST BELIEVERS IN THE AFTERLIFE RESORT TO DOGMA TO SUBSTANTIATE THEIR OPINIONS -- NOT HARD SCIENTIFIC EVIDENCE -- FOR THERE IS NONE!
THEY SAY FAITH IS THE FOUNDATION OF THEIR BELIEF...
WELL, PEOPLE, I'M AFRAID BELIEF IN SOMETHING I CAN NEITHER SEE, TOUCH, HEAR, OR SMELL IS BEYOND ME!
--AND SHOULD BE BEYOND YOU TOO!
...AS FUTURE SCIENTISTS, YOU OWE IT TO YOURSELVES AND FUTURE GENERATIONS TO BE SKEPTICAL OF THESE SO-CALLED NEW-AGERS--!
BEWARE! LEST WE ARE PLUNGED INTO ANOTHER DARK AGE RULED BY IGNORANCE AND SUPERSTITIOUS FEAR!!
JEEZ! HE'S PRETTY HARD CORE ISN'T HE?
SIGH! THAT'S DAD FOR YOU, WALTER!
HE'S A CONFIRMED SKEPTIC! HE HAS BEEN EVER SINCE MOTHER...
2

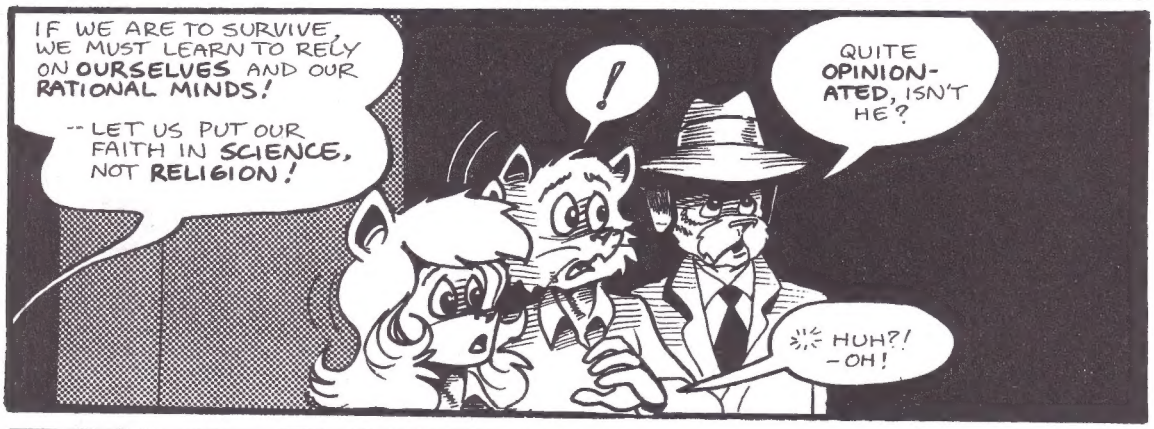

...WELL... EVER SINCE I CAN REMEMBER...
—YOU OKAY, CATHERINE...?

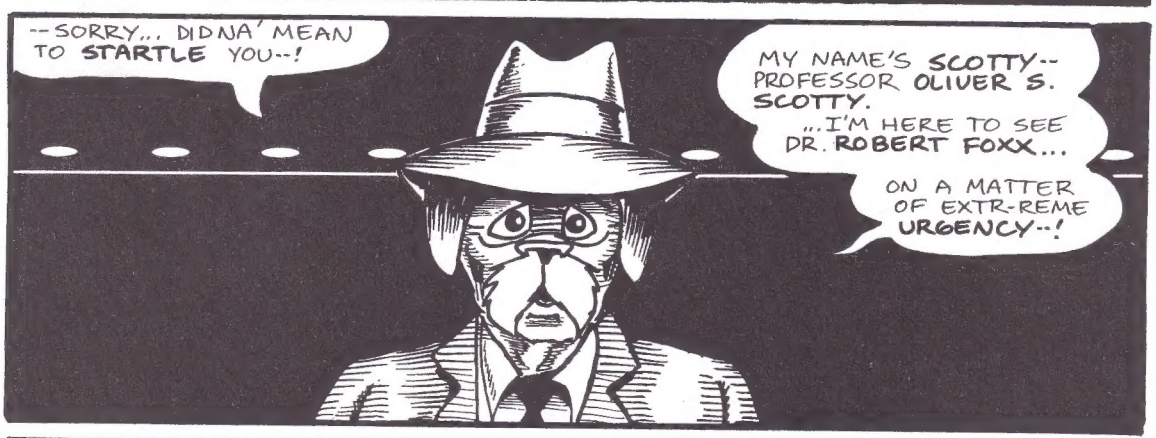

LISTEN... I HAVEN'T KNOWN YOU FOR VERY LONG, BUT I GET THE FEELING YOU'RE WORRIED ABOUT SOMETHING...
...WOULDN'T YOU FEEL BETTER TALKING ABOUT IT--?
...IF I CAN I'D LIKE TO HELP...

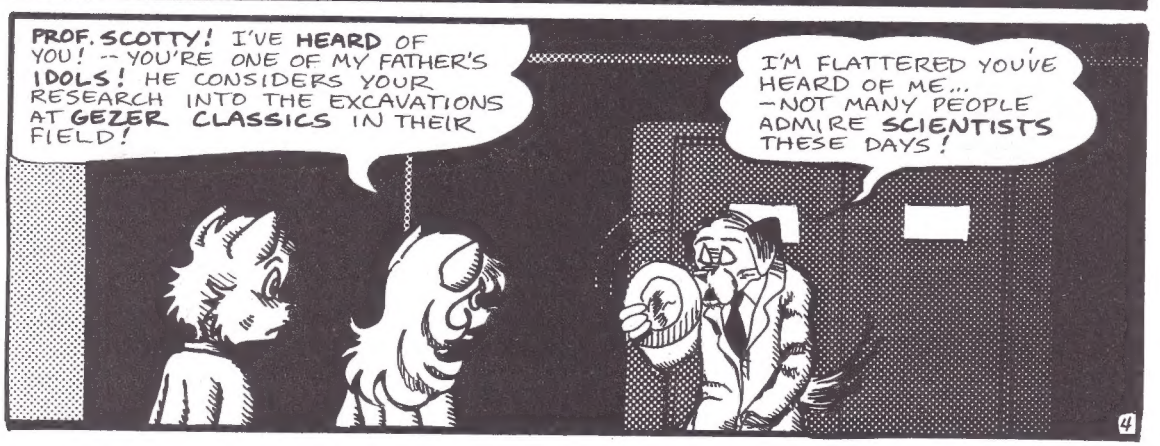
OH... IT'S NOTHING, WALTER... I GUESS I'M JUST STILL NERVOUS ABOUT THAT ATTACK ON US BY THOSE BAT-WINGED MONSTERS LAST WEEK!*
THAT'S ENOUGH TO UNNERVE ANYONE!
I STILL DON'T UNDERSTAND WHAT WAS HAPPENING--
--WHAT THEIR PURPOSE WAS--?!
*LAST ISSUE!

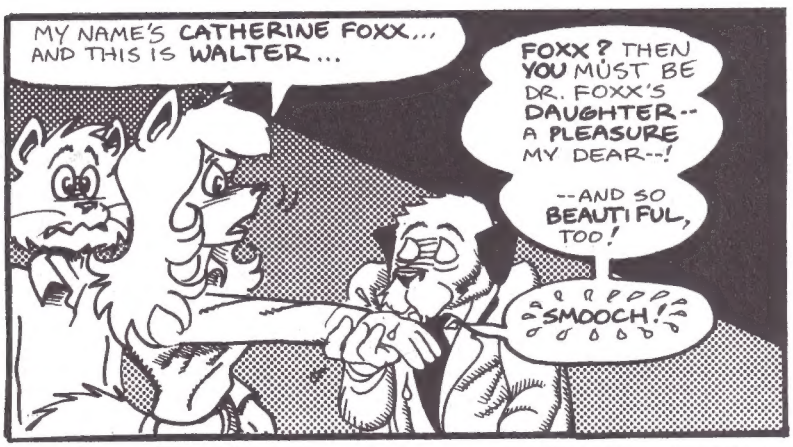

(BRRR!) THEY WERE MIGHTY SCARY-- THAT'S FOR SURE...
SLAM!

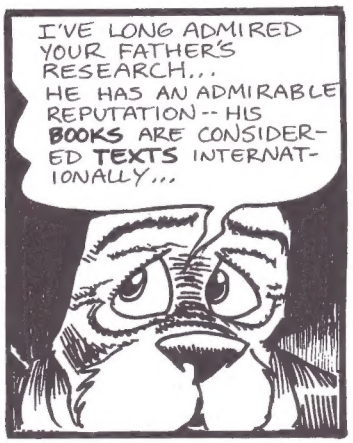

...IF WE ARE GOING TO ADVANCE IN THIS DAY AND AGE, WE MUST DO AWAY WITH THE NAIVE NOTION THAT GOD WILL SOLVE ALL OUR PROBLEMS FOR US!


IF WE ARE TO SURVIVE, WE MUST LEARN TO RELY ON OURSELVES AND OUR RATIONAL MINDS!
--LET US PUT OUR FAITH IN SCIENCE, NOT RELIGION!
!
QUITE OPINIONATED, ISN'T HE?
HUH?! -OH!


--SORRY... DIDNA' MEAN TO STARTLE YOU--!
MY NAME'S SCOTTY-- PROFESSOR OLIVER S. SCOTTY.
...I'M HERE TO SEE DR. ROBERT FOXX...
ON A MATTER OF EXTR-REME URGENCY--!


PROF. SCOTTY! I'VE HEARD OF YOU! --YOU'RE ONE OF MY FATHER'S IDOLS! HE CONSIDERS YOUR RESEARCH INTO THE EXCAVATIONS AT GEZER CLASSICS IN THEIR FIELD!
I'M FLATTERED YOU'VE HEARD OF ME... -NOT MANY PEOPLE ADMIRE SCIENTISTS THESE DAYS!


MY NAME'S CATHERINE FOXX... AND THIS IS WALTER...
FOXX? THEN YOU MUST BE DR. FOXX'S DAUGHTER-- A PLEASURE MY DEAR--!
--AND SO BEAUTIFUL, TOO!
SMOOCH!


I'VE LONG ADMIRED YOUR FATHER'S RESEARCH... HE HAS AN ADMIRABLE REPUTATION -- HIS BOOKS ARE CONSIDERED TEXTS INTERNATIONALLY...

WELL! THAT'S IT FOR NOW, PEOPLE...
REMEMBER, CLASS RESUMES AFTER SPRING BREAK. HAVE FUN, AND... BE SEEING YOU!

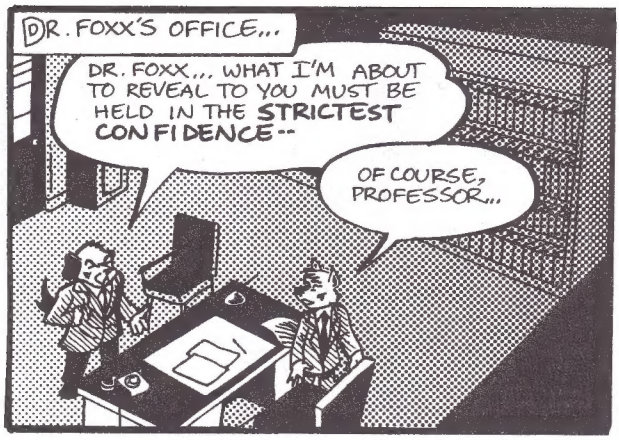
DAD-- THIS GENTLEMAN WANTS TO SPEAK WITH YOU...
HOW DO YOU DO, SIR! I'M PROFESSOR SCOTTY FROM EDINBURRO!

PROFESSOR OLIVER SCOTTY? I'M FAMILIAR WITH YOUR WORK, SIR! --A PLEASURE!
FOR ME TOO, DR. FOXX. I'VE JUST MET YOUR DAUGHTER... CHARMING— MAY I SAY?

HAVE YOU COME AS A SPEAKER FOR THE UNIVERSITY?
NO... ACTUALLY, I'VE COME TO SEE YOU, DR. FOXX...
—MAY WE SPEAK IN PRIVATE?

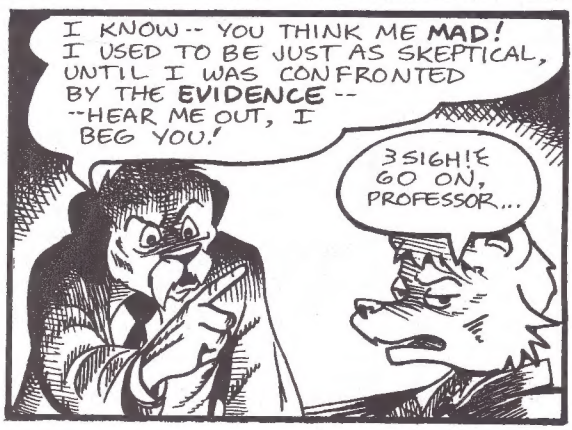
CERTAINLY, PROFESSOR... MY OFFICE IS JUST UPSTAIRS...
CATHERINE... WHY DON'T YOU AND WALTER GO ON TO LUNCH WITHOUT ME...
I'LL JOIN YOU LATER...
OKAY, DAD...

WHAT'S WRONG, WALTER?
I DUNNO... BUT THAT GUY BUGS ME FOR SOME REASON...


DR. FOXX'S OFFICE...
DR. FOXX... WHAT I'M ABOUT TO REVEAL TO YOU MUST BE HELD IN THE STRICTEST CONFIDENCE--
OF COURSE, PROFESSOR...

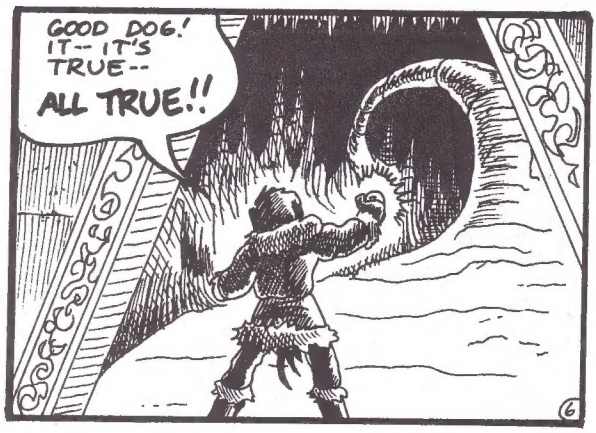
I'VE JUST RETURNED FROM THE HENALAYIN MOUNTAINS... FOLLOWING CLUES LEFT IN ANCIENT MONGROLIAN SCROLLS, I DISCOVERED ONE OF THE FABLED SEVEN ENTRANCES TO THE WORLD BELOW--!

--A VAST, UNEXPLORED REGION OF PRICELESS SCIENTIFIC DISCOVERIES, UNTAPPED BY MODERN SCIENCE!
{MMF! COUGH! WELL, PROF.-- I-- THAT IS...


I KNOW-- YOU THINK ME MAD! I USED TO BE JUST AS SKEPTICAL, UNTIL I WAS CONFRONTED BY THE EVIDENCE-- --HEAR ME OUT, I BEG YOU!
{SIGH!} GO ON, PROFESSOR...

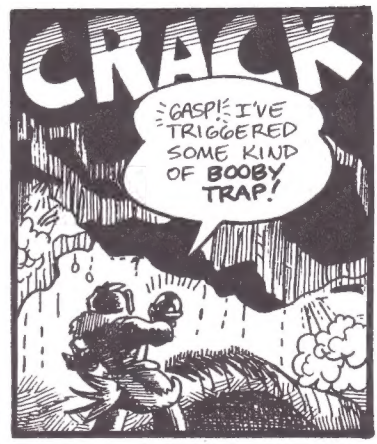
A MONTH AGO, I WAS IN MONGROLIA ON AN EXPEDITION IN THE HENALAYINS -- IT WAS THERE, ACCORDING TO THE SCROLLS, THAT I'D FIND THE ENTRANCE TO THE WORLD BELOW--! --AND IN A CAVE IN THE SHAPRA VALLEY--
THE GATEWAY--! I'VE FOUND IT!!

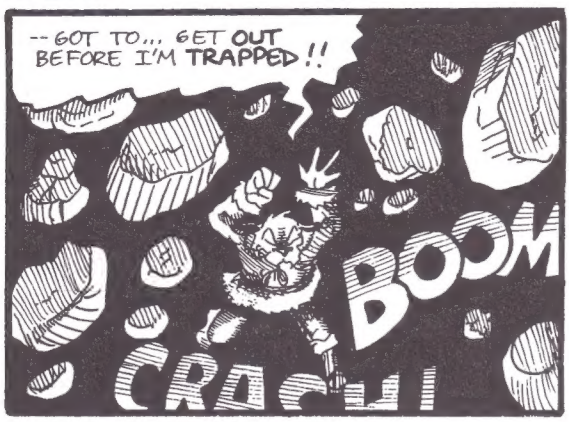
-THEN THE LEGENDS -- THE MYTHS-- THEY'RE TRUE!! THIS DOORWAY LEADS TO A NETWORK OF CAVES AND TUNNELS -- THAT LEAD TO THE CENTER OF THE HOLLOW EARTH!

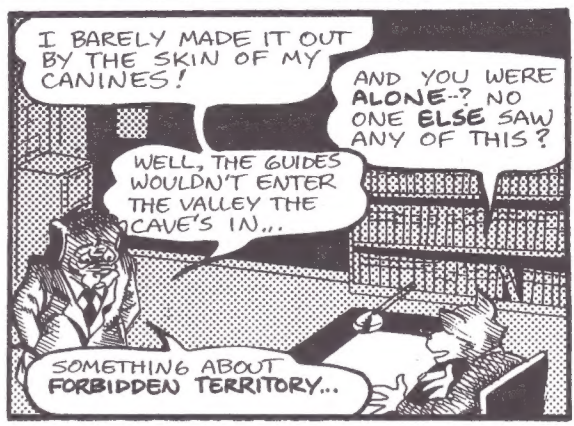

GOOD DOG! IT-- IT'S TRUE-- ALL TRUE!!

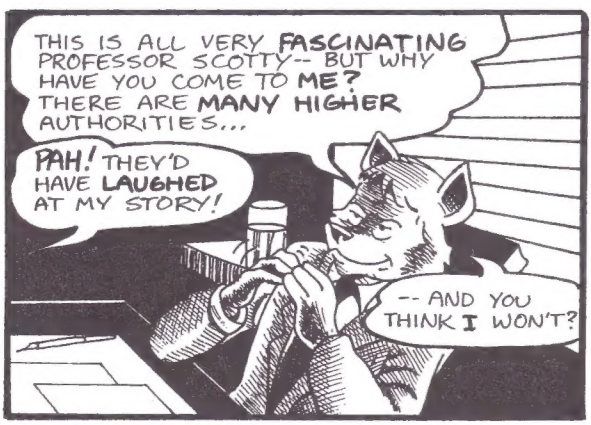
I'VE GOT TO SEE MORE--

CHONK!


CRACK
GASP! I'VE TRIGGERED SOME KIND OF BOOBY TRAP!


--GOT TO... GET OUT BEFORE I'M TRAPPED!!
BOOM
CRACK!

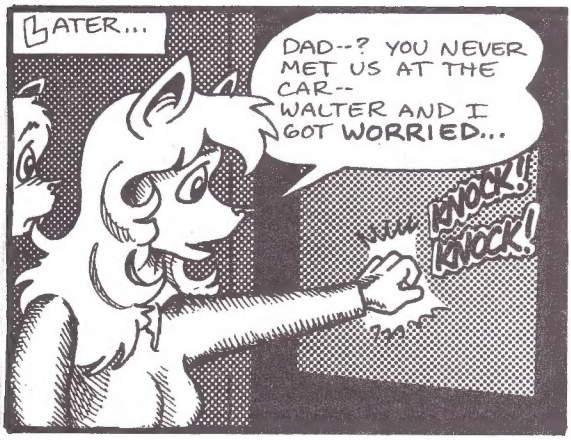

I BARELY MADE IT OUT BY THE SKIN OF MY CANINES!
AND YOU WERE ALONE--? NO ONE ELSE SAW ANY OF THIS?
WELL, THE GUIDES WOULDN'T ENTER THE VALLEY THE CAVE'S IN...
SOMETHING ABOUT FORBIDDEN TERRITORY...

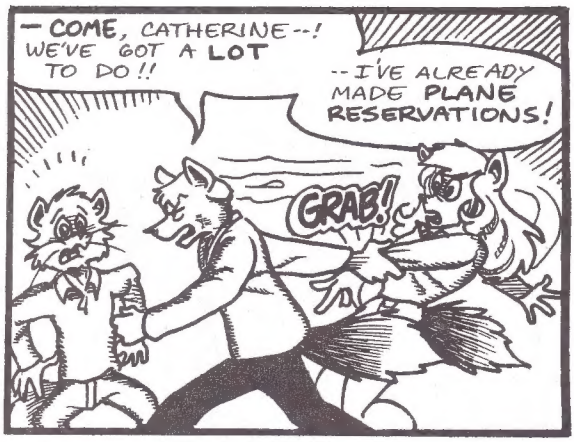

THIS IS ALL VERY FASCINATING PROFESSOR SCOTTY-- BUT WHY HAVE YOU COME TO ME? THERE ARE MANY HIGHER AUTHORITIES...
PAH! THEY'D HAVE LAUGHED AT MY STORY!
-- AND YOU THINK I WON'T?

I'M SORRY, PROFESSOR-- BUT THIS IS THE MOST RIDICULOUS FAIRY TALE I'VE EVER EN-COUNTERED!
THE HOLLOW EARTH -- -- REALLY!!

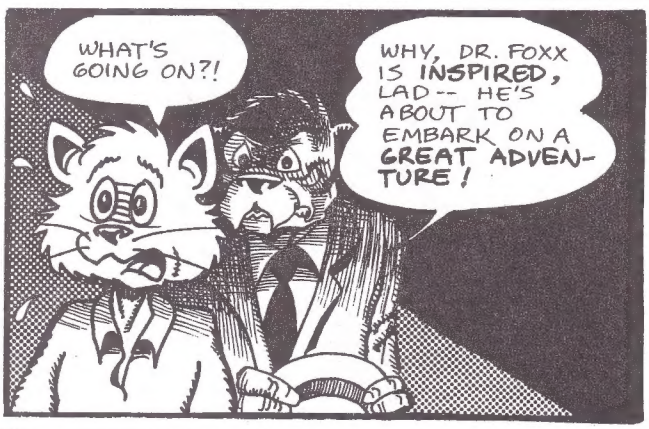
I CAN SEE YOU'RE NOT GOING TO BE CONVINCED BY ANYTHING CONVENTION-AL I MIGHT HAVE TO SAY, DR. FOXX...
THEREFORE...
...I'M AFRAID I'LL HAVE TO RESORT TO...

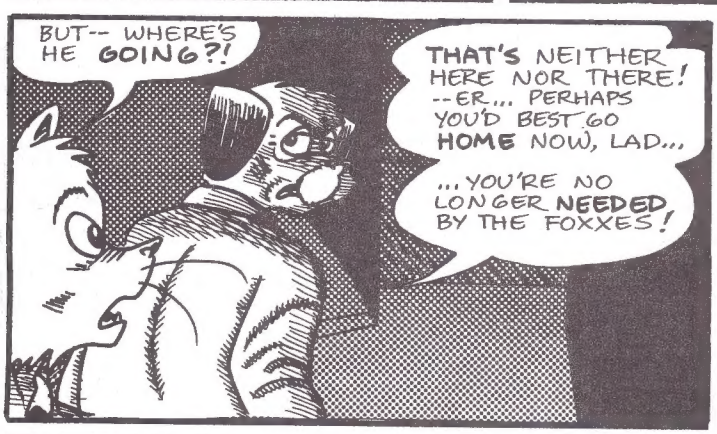
...SOMETHING DRASTIC...

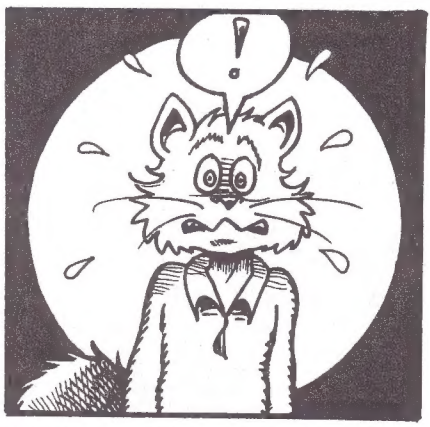

LATER...
DAD--? YOU NEVER MET US AT THE CAR-- WALTER AND I GOT WORRIED...
KNOCK! KNOCK!

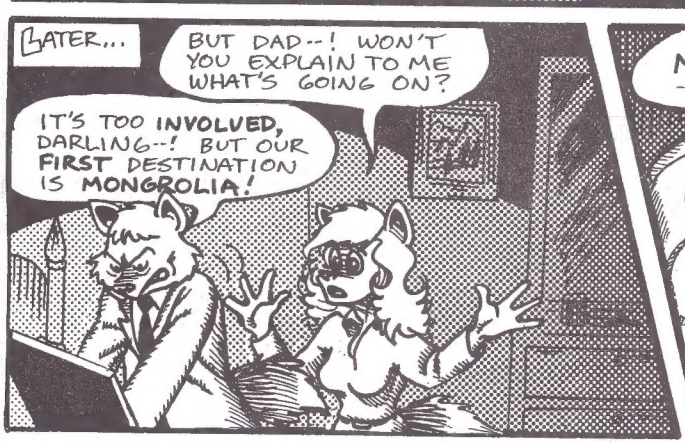

-COME, CATHERINE--! WE'VE GOT A LOT TO DO!!
--I'VE ALREADY MADE PLANE RESERVATIONS!
GRAB!

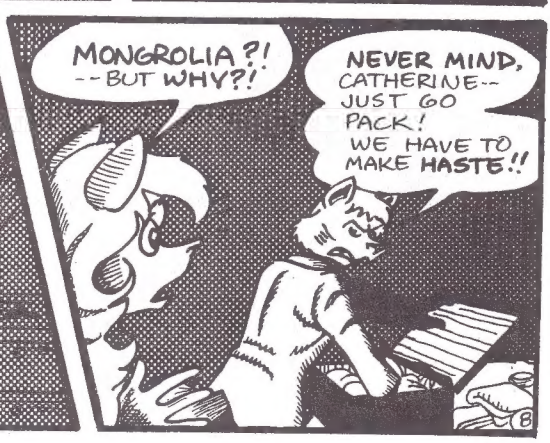
WE'VE GOT TO PACK!
?
DR. FOXX!? -- CATHERINE?!
SHROG!

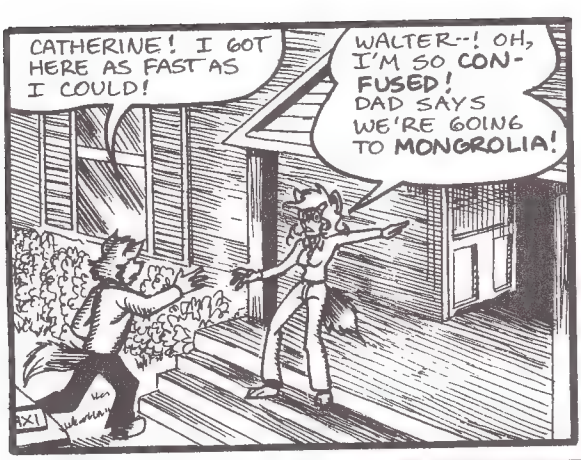

WHAT'S GOING ON?!
WHY, DR. FOXX IS INSPIRED, LAD-- HE'S ABOUT TO EMBARK ON A GREAT ADVENTURE!

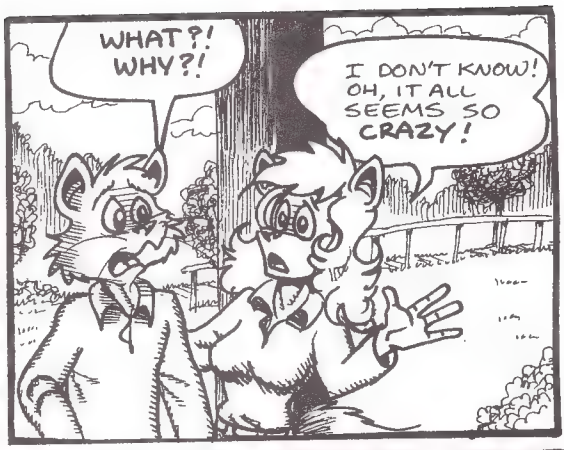

BUT-- WHERE'S HE GOING?!
THAT'S NEITHER HERE NOR THERE! --ER... PERHAPS YOU'D BEST GO HOME NOW, LAD...
...YOU'RE NO LONGER NEEDED BY THE FOXXES!

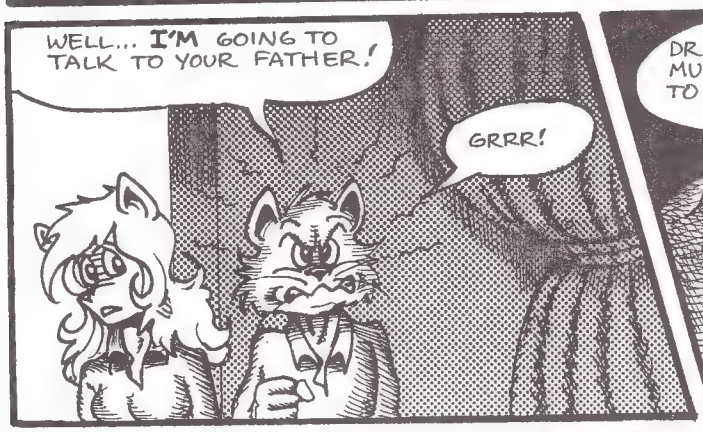

!


LATER...
BUT DAD--! WON'T YOU EXPLAIN TO ME WHAT'S GOING ON?
IT'S TOO INVOLVED, DARLING--! BUT OUR FIRST DESTINATION IS MONGROLIA!


MONGROLIA?! --BUT WHY?!
NEVER MIND, CATHERINE-- JUST GO PACK! WE HAVE TO MAKE HASTE!!


CATHERINE! I GOT HERE AS FAST AS I COULD!
WALTER--! OH, I'M SO CON-FUSED! DAD SAYS WE'RE GOING TO MONGROLIA!

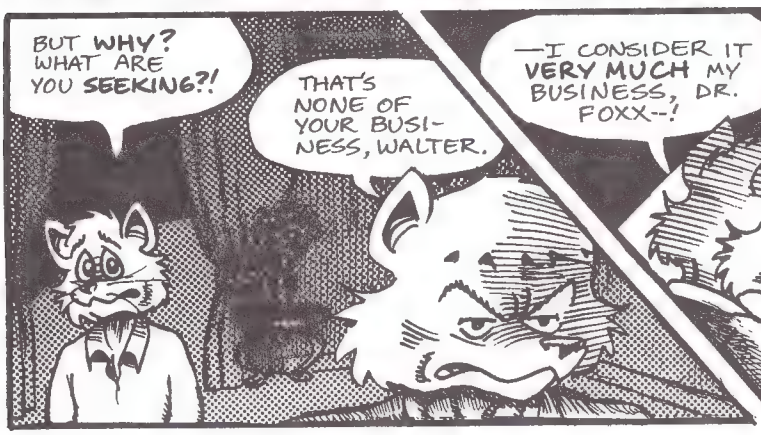

WHAT?! WHY?!
I DON'T KNOW! OH, IT ALL SEEMS SO CRAZY!

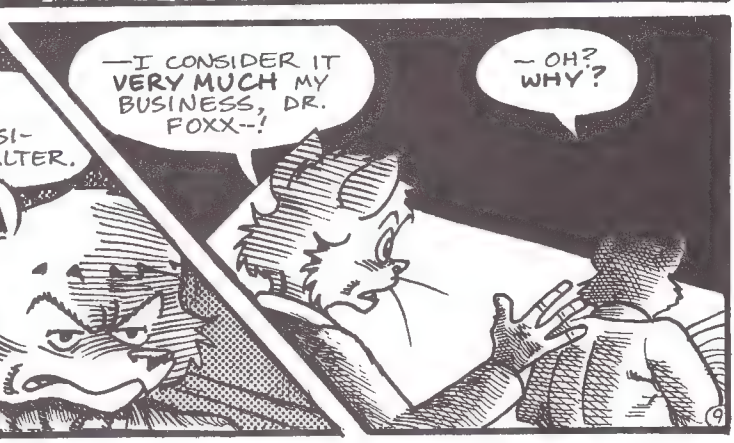

WELL... I'M GOING TO TALK TO YOUR FATHER!
GRRR!

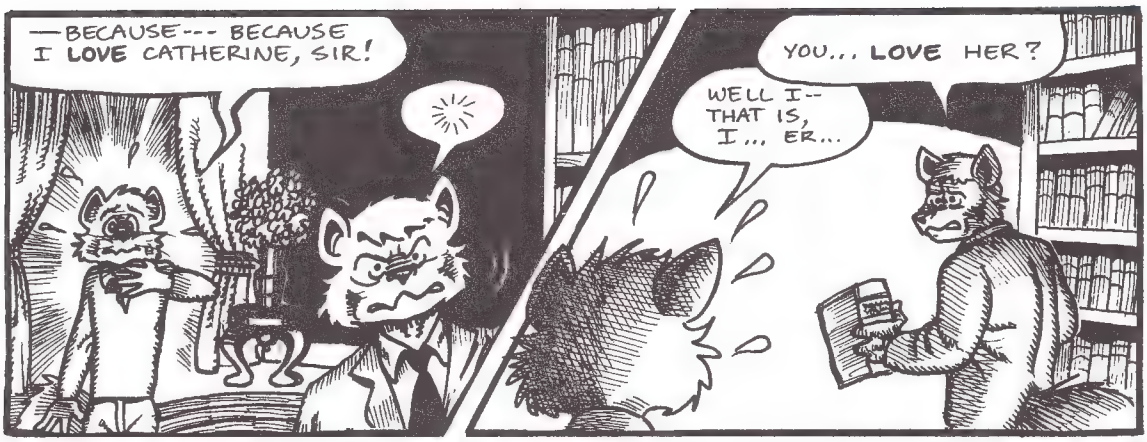
DR FOXX -- I MUST SPEAK TO YOU, SIR--!
I HAVEN'T TIME, WALTER! I'M INVOLVED IN SOMETHING IMPORTANT!

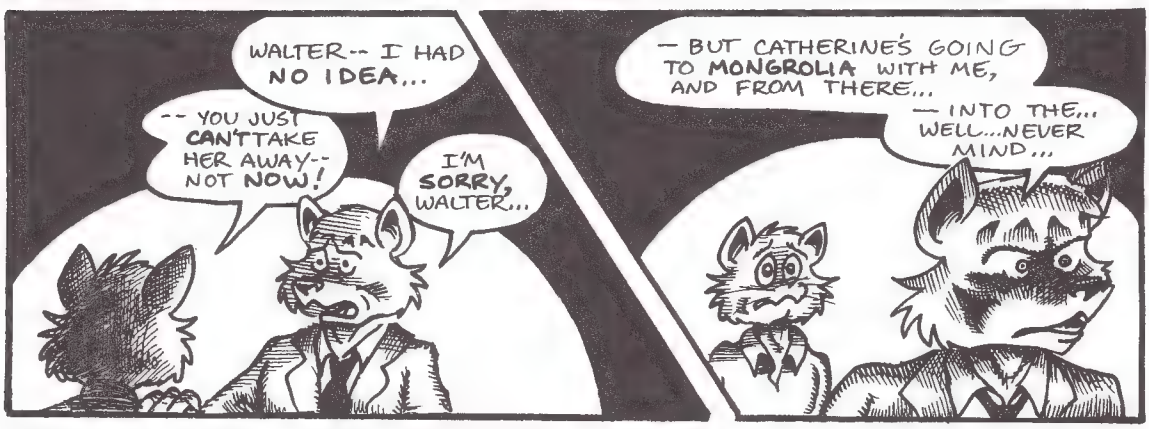
--BUT YOU CAN'T JUST GO RUNNING OFF TO MONGROLIA--!
—CAN'T I? I BEG TO DISAGREE!

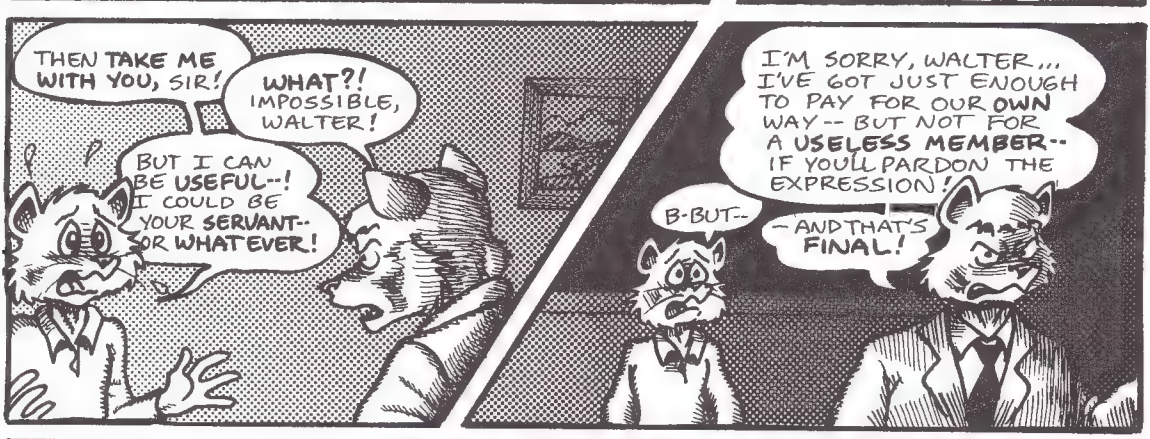
--AND YOU'RE TAKING CATHER-INE WITH YOU?
YES! CATHERINE MUST COME TOO!


BUT WHY? WHAT ARE YOU SEEKING?!
THAT'S NONE OF YOUR BUSI-NESS, WALTER.


—I CONSIDER IT VERY MUCH MY BUSINESS, DR. FOXX--!
— OH? WHY?

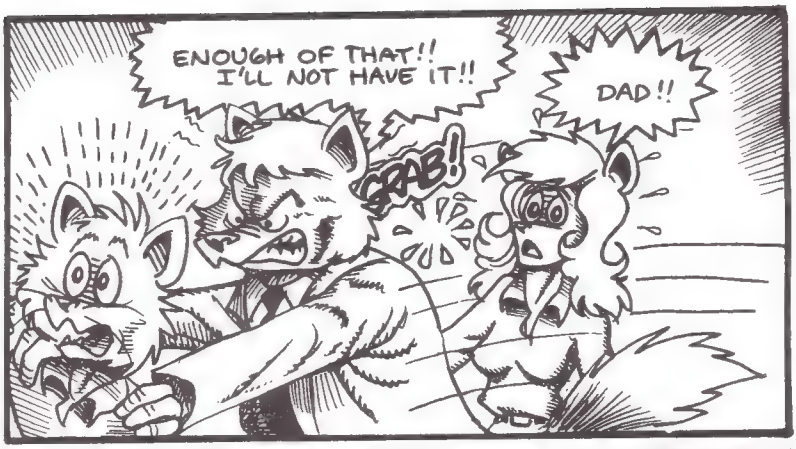

—BECAUSE--- BECAUSE I LOVE CATHERINE, SIR!
YOU... LOVE HER?
WELL I-- THAT IS, I... ER...

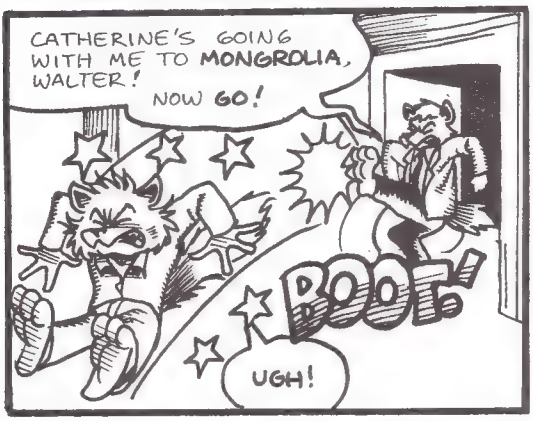

WALTER-- I HAD NO IDEA...
-- YOU JUST CAN'T TAKE HER AWAY-- NOT NOW!
I'M SORRY, WALTER...
— BUT CATHERINE'S GOING TO MONGROLIA WITH ME, AND FROM THERE...
— INTO THE... WELL...NEVER MIND...

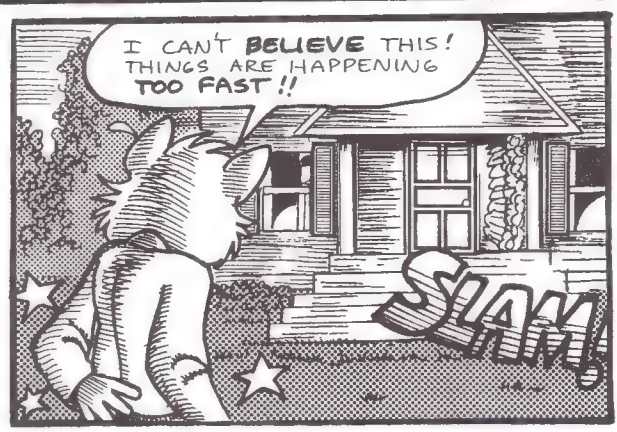

THEN TAKE ME WITH YOU, SIR!
WHAT?! IMPOSSIBLE, WALTER!
BUT I CAN BE USEFUL--! I COULD BE YOUR SERVANT-- OR WHATEVER!
I'M SORRY, WALTER... I'VE GOT JUST ENOUGH TO PAY FOR OUR OWN WAY -- BUT NOT FOR A USELESS MEMBER-- IF YOU'LL PARDON THE EXPRESSION!
B-BUT--
— AND THAT'S FINAL!

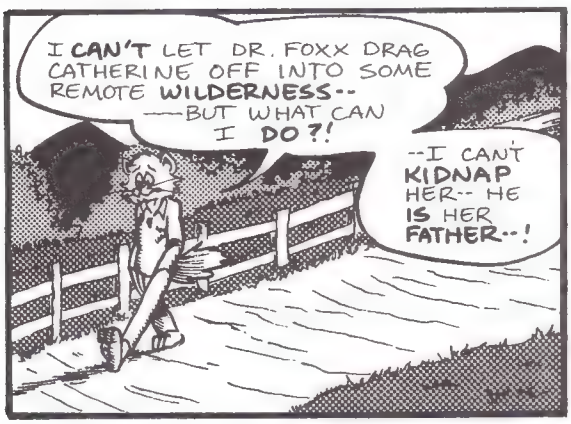
...NOW PLEASE GO! -- CATHERINE AND I HAVE MUCH TO DO!
NICE TRY, WALTER--!
CATHERINE! —YOU HEARD?

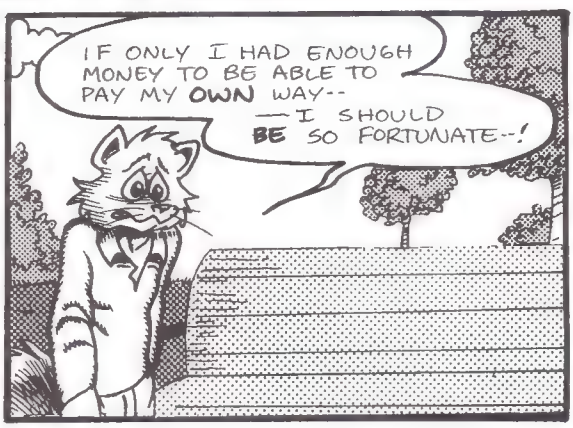
I SURE DID!
SMOOOCH!

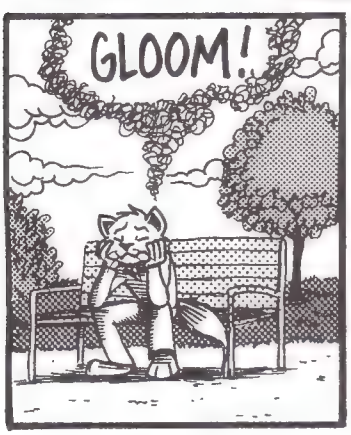

ENOUGH OF THAT!! I'LL NOT HAVE IT!!
DAD!!
GRAB!


CATHERINE'S GOING WITH ME TO MONGROLIA, WALTER! NOW GO!
BOOT!
UGH!


I CAN'T BELIEVE THIS! THINGS ARE HAPPENING TOO FAST!!
SLAM!


I CAN'T LET DR. FOXX DRAG CATHERINE OFF INTO SOME REMOTE WILDERNESS--
--BUT WHAT CAN I DO?!
--I CAN'T KIDNAP HER-- HE IS HER FATHER--!


IF ONLY I HAD ENOUGH MONEY TO BE ABLE TO PAY MY OWN WAY--
--I SHOULD BE SO FORTUNATE--!

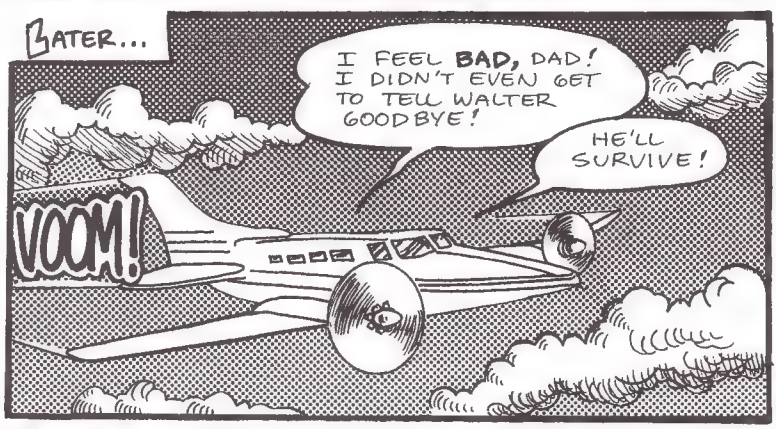

GLOOM!

--WHY IT'S THAT POOR, PENNILESS CAT FROM LAST WEEK! WHAT'S WRONG, SONNY--? SPENT IT ALL ALREADY?
COMPLETELY OBLIVIOUS

WELL, WE CAN'T HAVE THAT, CAN WE?

—HERE'S ANOTHER MILLION, MR. CAT--
-- HAVE FUN!
PLOP!

JUST LET ME KNOW IF YOU NEED ANY MORE--!
TA-TA!

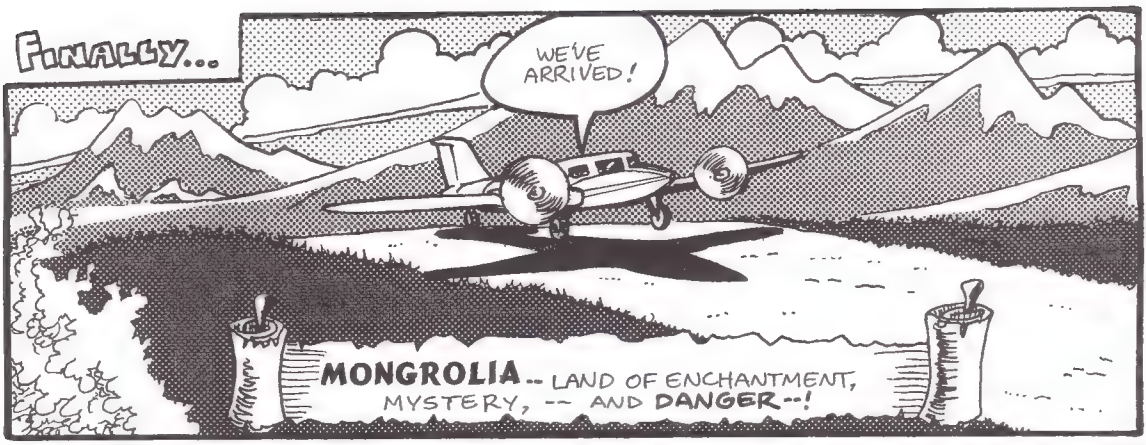

LATER...
I FEEL BAD, DAD! I DIDN'T EVEN GET TO TELL WALTER GOODBYE!
HE'LL SURVIVE!
VOOM!

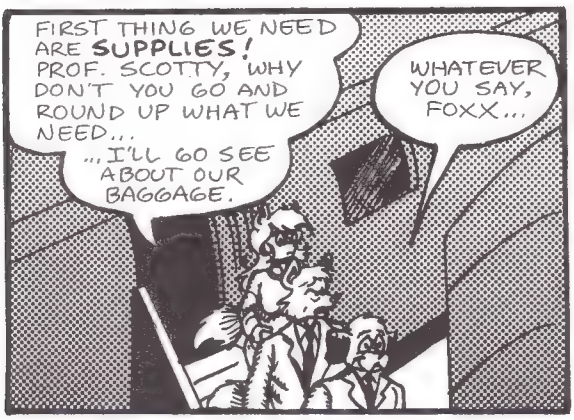
DINNA FRET, ME DARLIN'! SOON YOU'LL SEE SUCH WONDERS THAT YOU'LL FORGET ALL ABOUT SUCH MUNDANE MATTERS!
OH?

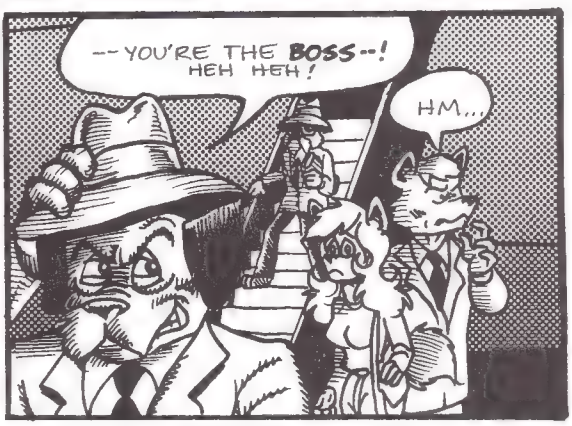
—TO BE SURE! WHY, A WHOLE NEW WORLD'S GOING TO OPEN UP FOR YOU, GIRL!
I WISH YOU AND DAD WOULD STOP BEING SO MYSTERIOUS AND JUST TELL ME WHERE WE'RE HEADED!

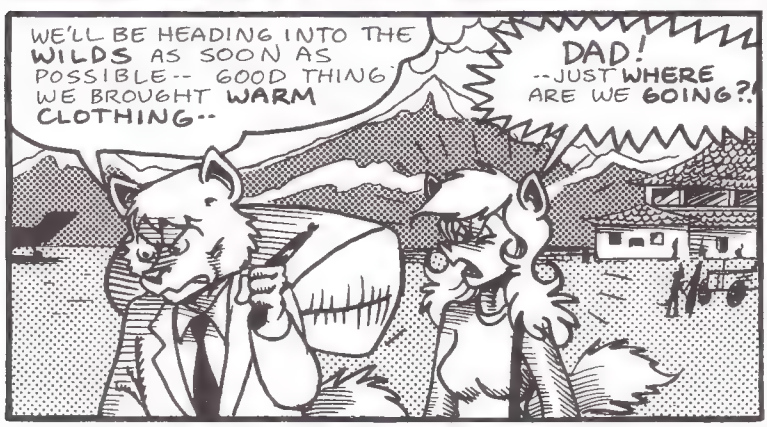
TIME ENOUGH FOR THAT, LASS... HEH HEH!
"HEH HEH" YOURSELF!
—YOU OLD CREEP!

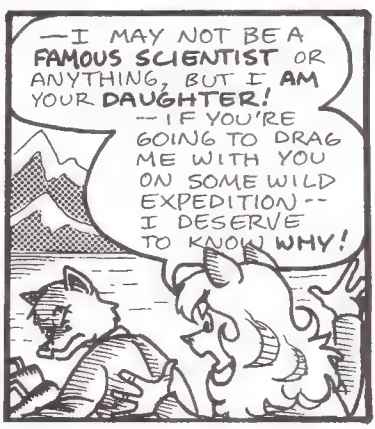
SIGH & IF ONLY WALTER WERE HERE, I'D FEEL BETTER...


FINALLY...
WE'VE ARRIVED!
MONGROLIA -- LAND OF ENCHANTMENT, MYSTERY, -- AND DANGER--!

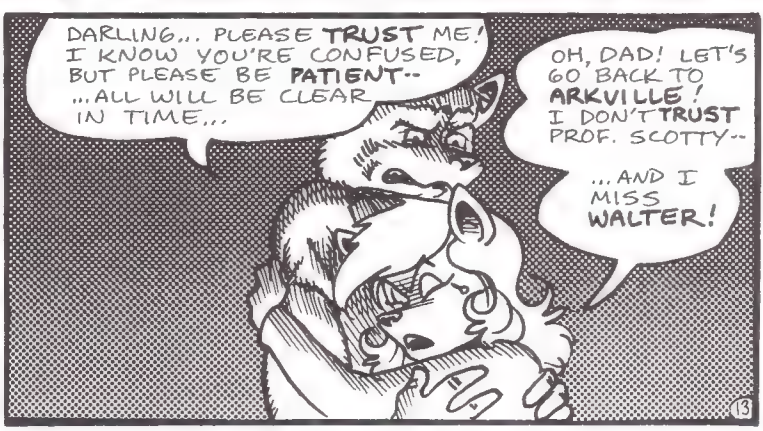

FIRST THING WE NEED ARE SUPPLIES! PROF. SCOTTY, WHY DON'T YOU GO AND ROUND UP WHAT WE NEED...
...I'LL GO SEE ABOUT OUR BAGGAGE.
WHATEVER YOU SAY, FOXX...


--YOU'RE THE BOSS--! HEH HEH!
HM...

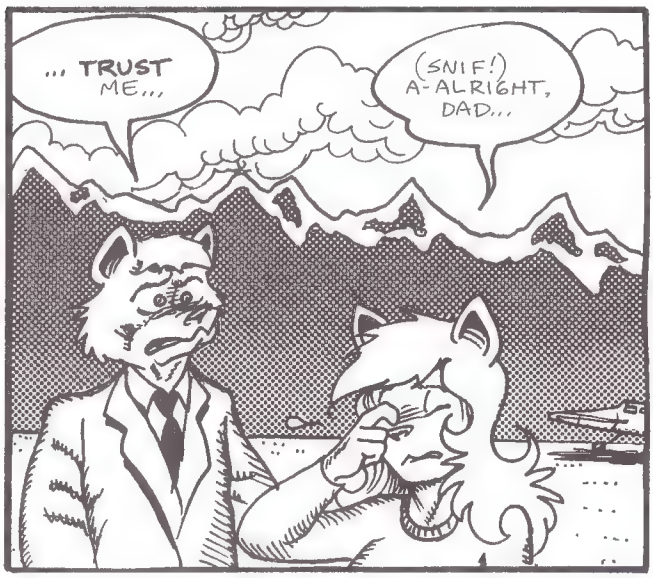

WE'LL BE HEADING INTO THE WILDS AS SOON AS POSSIBLE-- GOOD THING WE BROUGHT WARM CLOTHING--
DAD! --JUST WHERE ARE WE GOING?!


--I MAY NOT BE A FAMOUS SCIENTIST OR ANYTHING, BUT I AM YOUR DAUGHTER! --IF YOU'RE GOING TO DRAG ME WITH YOU ON SOME WILD EXPEDITION-- I DESERVE TO KNOW WHY!

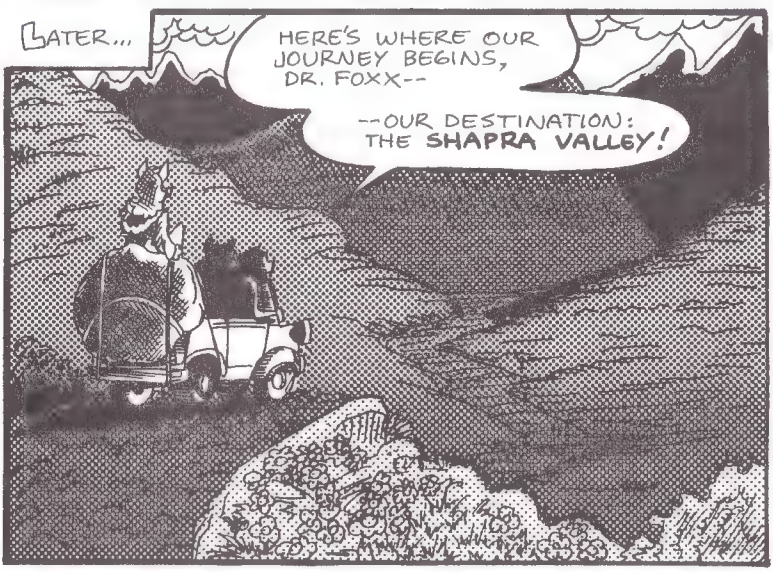
...CATHERINE...

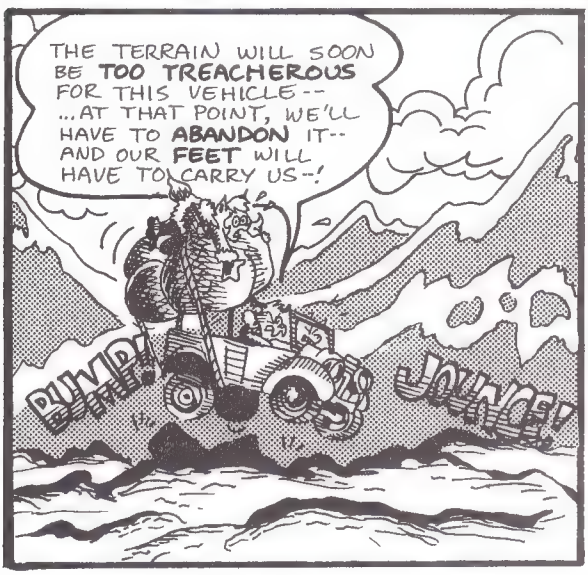

DARLING... PLEASE TRUST ME! I KNOW YOU'RE CONFUSED, BUT PLEASE BE PATIENT-- ...ALL WILL BE CLEAR IN TIME...
OH, DAD! LET'S GO BACK TO ARKVILLE! I DON'T TRUST PROF. SCOTTY--
...AND I MISS WALTER!

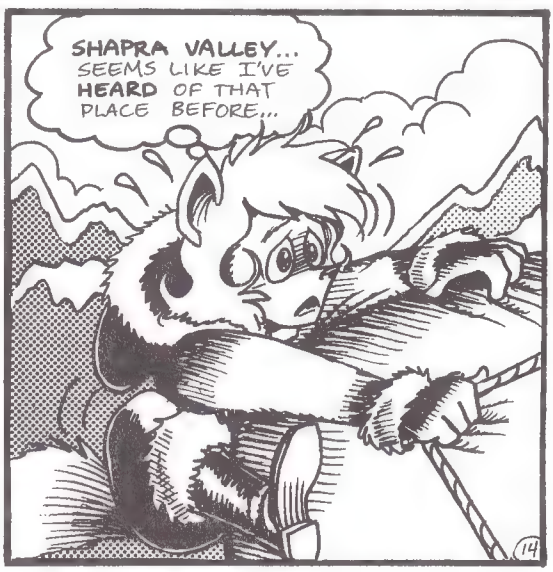
WE'RE ON THE VERGE OF SOMETHING **WONDERFUL**, CATHERINE-- IF YOU'LL JUST BEAR WITH ME, YOU'LL BE **GLAD** YOU DID--
—PLEASE...


... **TRUST** ME...
(SNIF!) A-ALRIGHT, DAD...

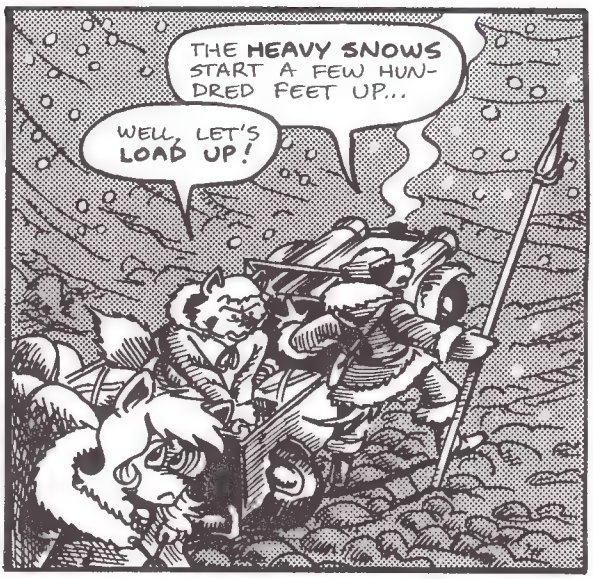
... BUT I **STILL** DON'T TRUST PROFESSOR SCOTTY!

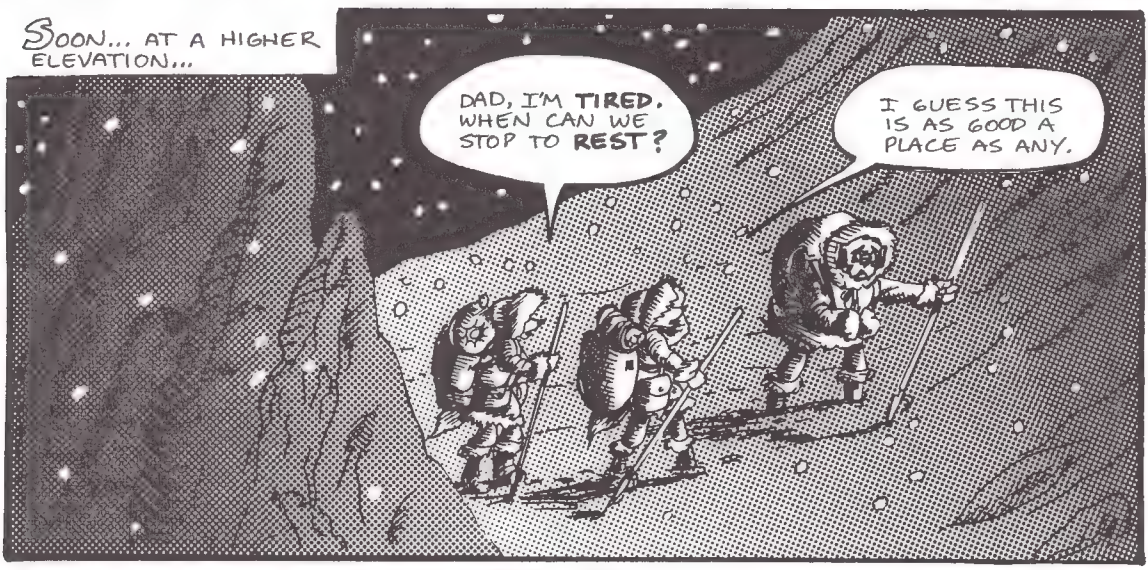

LATER...
HERE'S WHERE OUR JOURNEY BEGINS, DR. FOXX--
--OUR DESTINATION: THE **SHAPRA VALLEY!**


THE TERRAIN WILL SOON BE **TOO TREACHEROUS** FOR THIS VEHICLE-- ...AT THAT POINT, WE'LL HAVE TO **ABANDON** IT-- AND OUR **FEET** WILL HAVE TO CARRY US--!
PUMP!
JOUNCE!


SHAPRA VALLEY... SEEMS LIKE I'VE **HEARD** OF THAT PLACE BEFORE...

HOURS PASS...
I'M AFRAID THAT'S IT FOR THE JEEP-!
WHEW!
FFSSSSSS

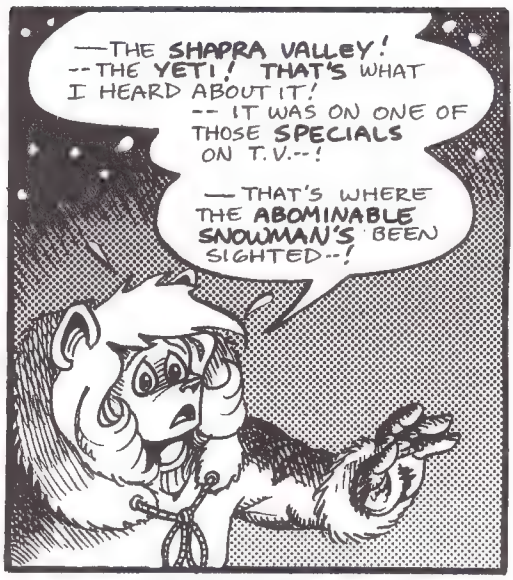

THE HEAVY SNOWS START A FEW HUNDRED FEET UP...
WELL, LET'S LOAD UP!


SOON... AT A HIGHER ELEVATION...
DAD, I'M TIRED. WHEN CAN WE STOP TO REST?
I GUESS THIS IS AS GOOD A PLACE AS ANY.

HOW FAR IS IT TO THE VALLEY YOU MENTIONED, PROF. SCOTTY?
THE DISTANCE ISN'T THE PROBLEM, LASSIE...
FOOMP!

—IT'S GETTING THERE IN ONE PIECE!
WHAT DO YOU MEAN?

WELL, THERE'S A REASON NO NATIVE GUIDES WILL GO NEAR THE VALLEY...
IT'S TABOO--?
WELL, NO, BUT...


—THE SHAPRA VALLEY! --THE YETI! THAT'S WHAT I HEARD ABOUT IT! -- IT WAS ON ONE OF THOSE SPECIALS ON T.V.--!
—THAT'S WHERE THE ABOMINABLE SNOWMAN'S BEEN SIGHTED--!

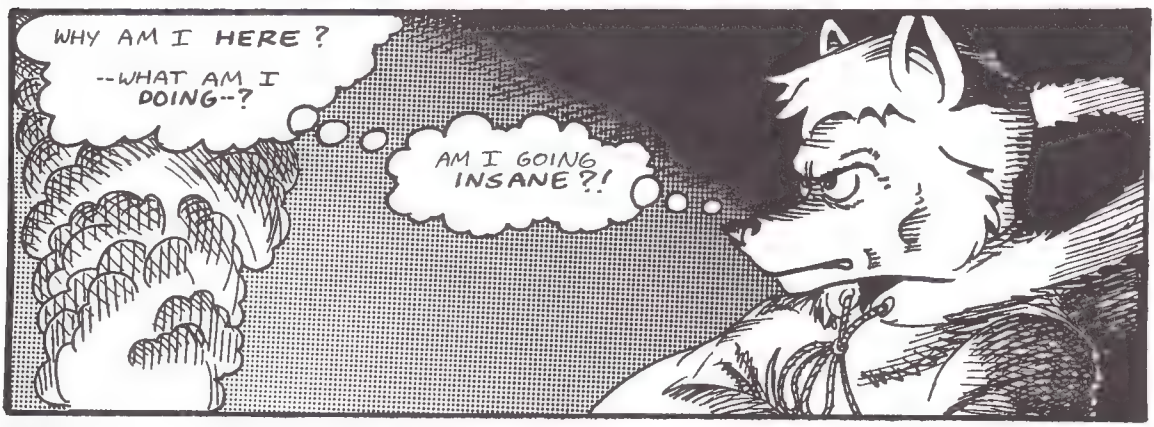
TRUE, LASS...
—AND WE'RE WALKING INTO THERE WITH NO PROTECTION?!
—ARE YOU CRAZY?!

OH, WE'VE GOT PROTECTION ALL RIGHT... HEH HEH...
PAT PAT!

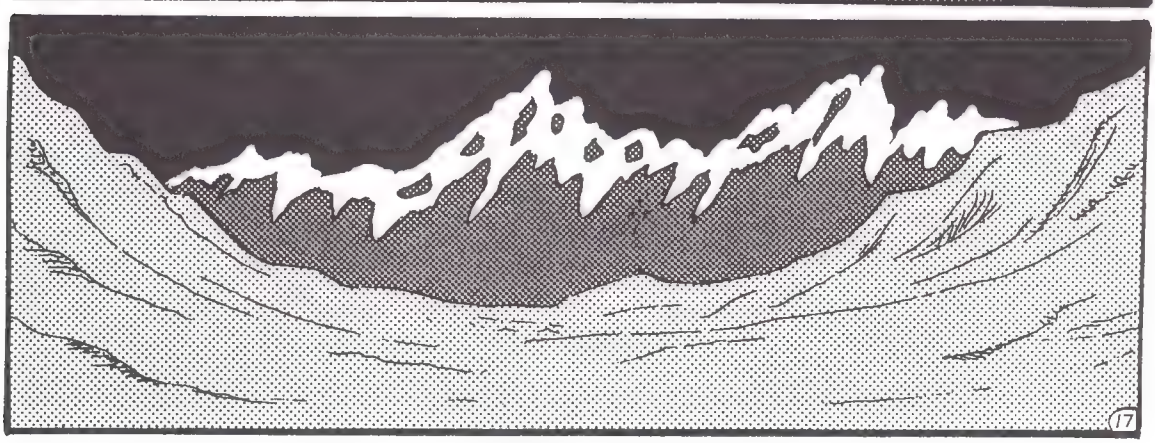
...BEST WE GET SOME SLEEP NOW--!

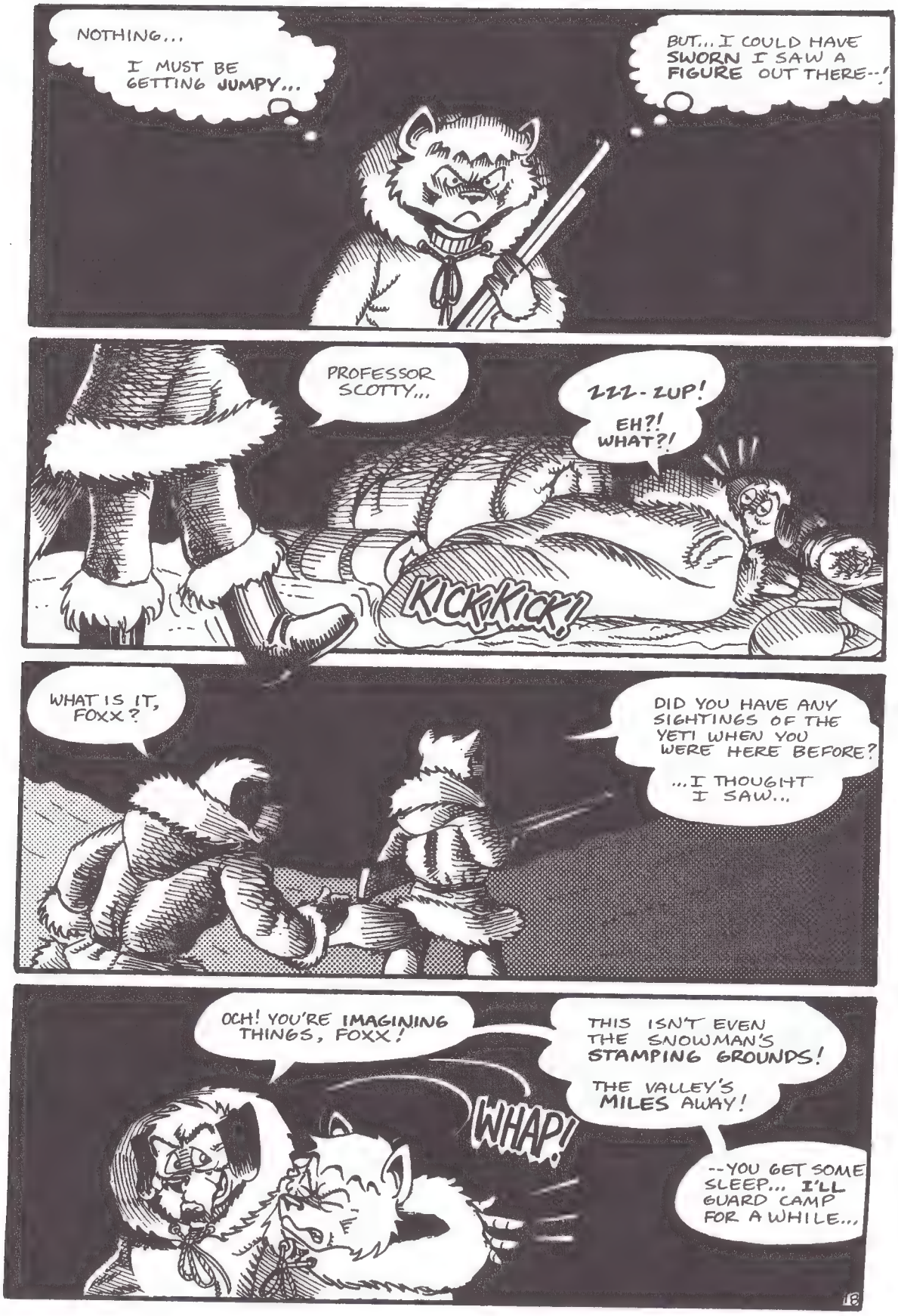
I'LL TAKE FIRST WATCH...
—THEN WE CAN GET AN EARLY START TOMORROW.
WAKE ME IN A FEW HOURS...

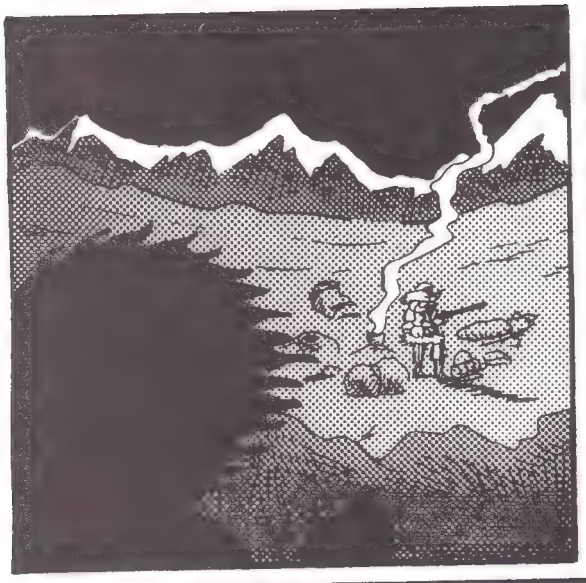
So...
... THE COLD SEEPS RIGHT TO THE BONE!
Z
Z


WHY AM I HERE?
--WHAT AM I DOING--?
AM I GOING INSANE?!

--WHAT WAS THAT?
I SAW SOMETHING MOVE OUT THERE!




NOTHING...
I MUST BE GETTING JUMPY...
BUT... I COULD HAVE SWORN I SAW A FIGURE OUT THERE--!
PROFESSOR SCOTTY...
ZZZ-ZUP!
EH?! WHAT?!
KICK! KICK!
WHAT IS IT, FOXX?
DID YOU HAVE ANY SIGHTINGS OF THE YETI WHEN YOU WERE HERE BEFORE?
...I THOUGHT I SAW...
OCH! YOU'RE IMAGINING THINGS, FOXX!
THIS ISN'T EVEN THE SNOWMAN'S STAMPING GROUNDS!
THE VALLEY'S MILES AWAY!
WHAP!
--YOU GET SOME SLEEP... I'LL GUARD CAMP FOR A WHILE...



NEXT MORNING!
LET'S GO... IF WE MAKE GOOD TIME WE CAN GET TO THE VALLEY BY THIS AFTERNOON.

LATER...
?
DAD--?

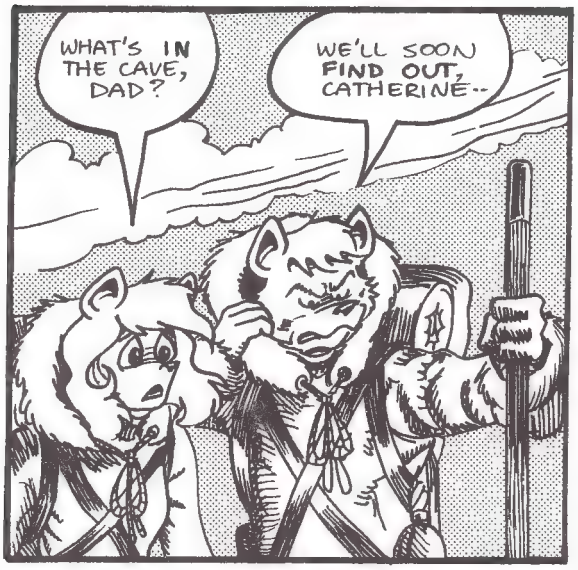
WHAT IS IT?
I DON'T KNOW... I FEEL LIKE WE'RE BEING WATCHED!

I HAD THE SAME FEELING LAST NIGHT--!
OCH! YOU'RE BOTH IMAGINING IT!

THESE LONELY PEAKS CAN PLAY TRICKS ON THOSE UNUSED TO ISOLATION--!
--IT'S NOTHING I TELL YOU!

SOON...
THERE IT IS -- THE SHAPRA VALLEY-- HERE OUR JOURNEY TRULY BEGINS--!

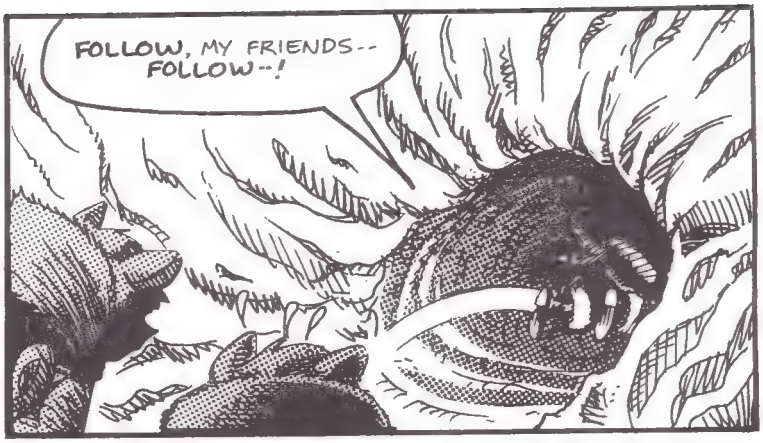
--AND THERE IS THE ENTRANCE TO THE CAVE!

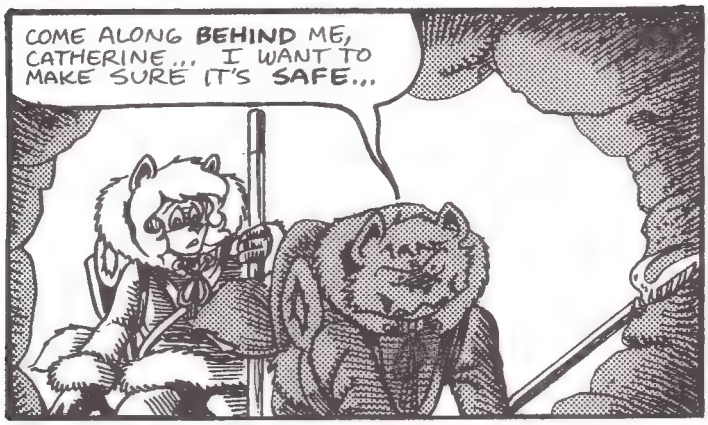

WHAT'S IN THE CAVE, DAD?
WE'LL SOON FIND OUT, CATHERINE--

HERE IT IS-- JUST LIKE I LEFT IT--!

WELL, DR. FOXX-- WHO HAS THE HONOR--?
IT'S YOUR DISCOVERY, PROF. SCOTTY-- AFTER YOU!

I THANK YOU! THIS IS A MOMENTOUS OCCASION FOR SCIENCE!
WAIT! AREN'T YOU GOING TO BREAK OUT THE LAMPS?!





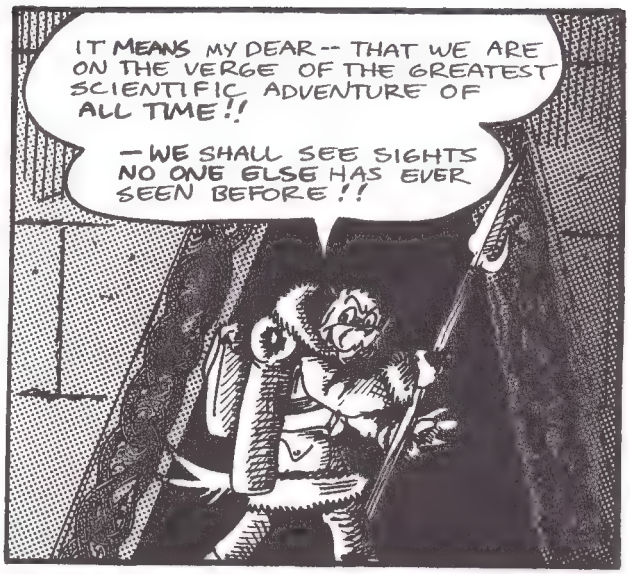
MINUTES LATER...

OH! DAD!

...IT-- IT'S TRUE--!

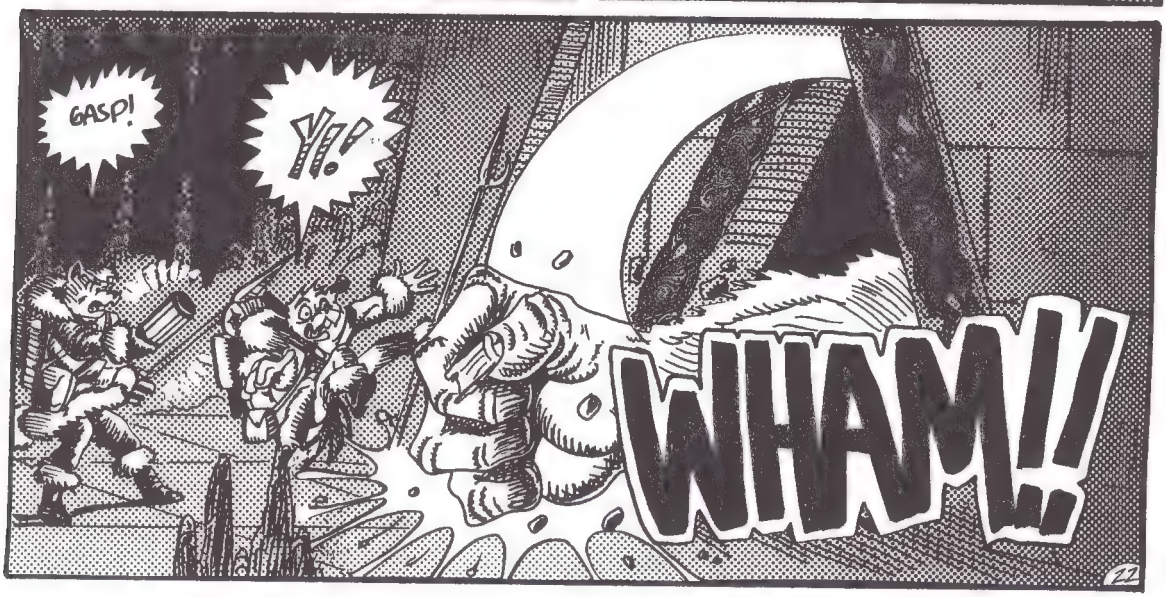
THIS IS IT, MY FRIENDS--! THE ENTRANCE TO THE WORLD BELOW!

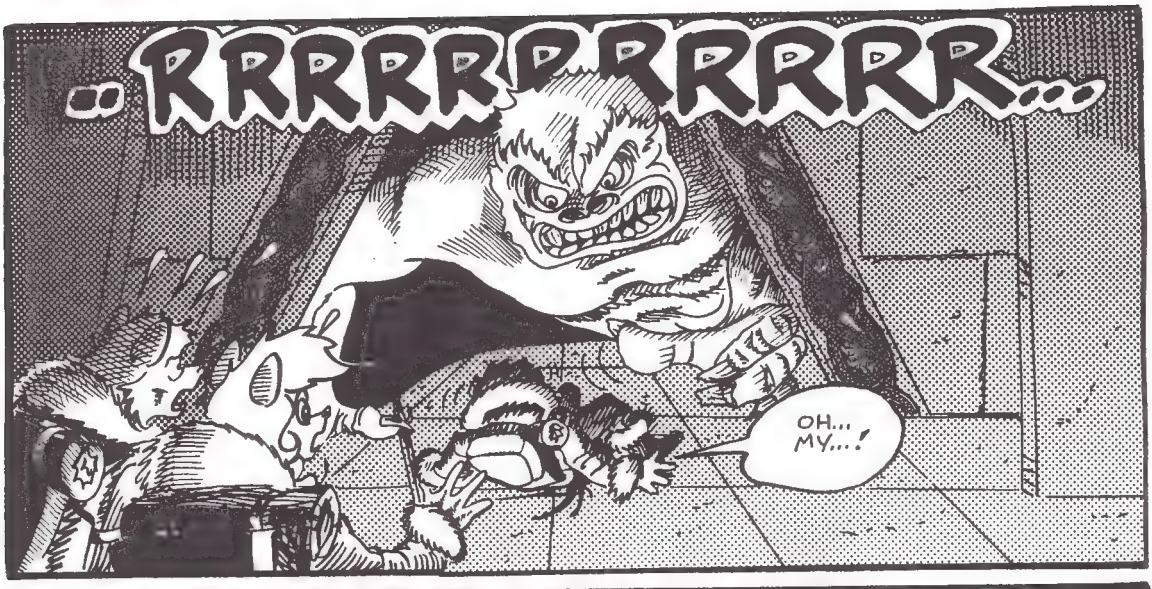
DAD-- WHAT IS IT--? WHAT DOES IT MEAN?!


IT MEANS MY DEAR -- THAT WE ARE ON THE VERGE OF THE GREATEST SCIENTIFIC ADVENTURE OF ALL TIME!!
— WE SHALL SEE SIGHTS NO ONE ELSE HAS EVER SEEN BEFORE!!

WE ARE STANDING ON THE THRESHOLD OF THE GREAT UNKNOWN!!
— NOW COME--

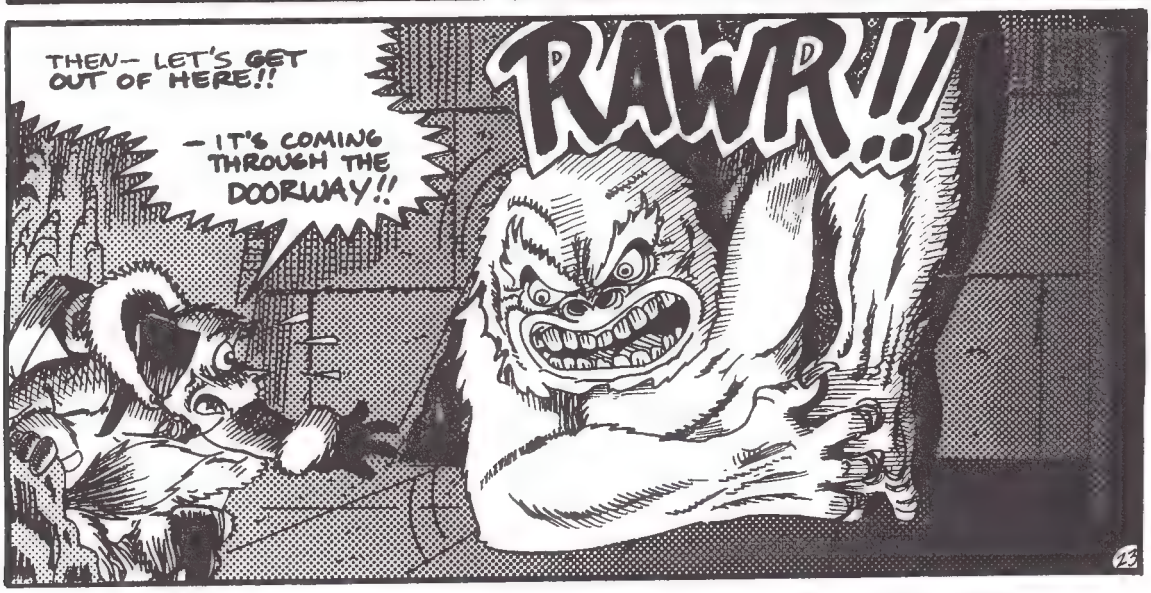
--LET US TREAD THE PATH OF DISCOVERY--!
ONWARD -- IN THE NAME OF SCIENCE--!

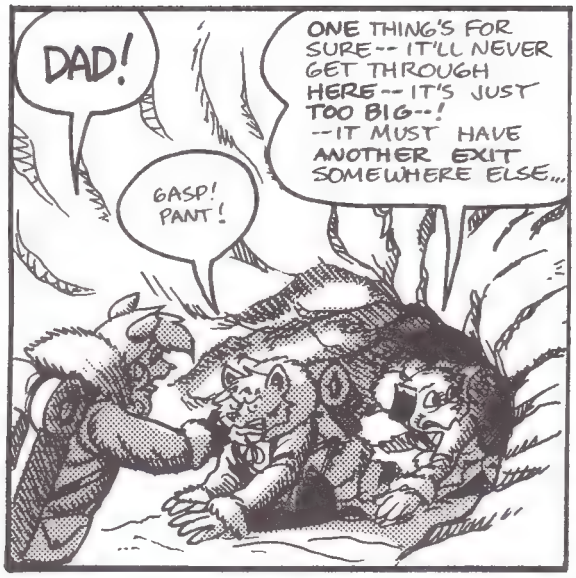

GASP!
Y!!
WHAM!!

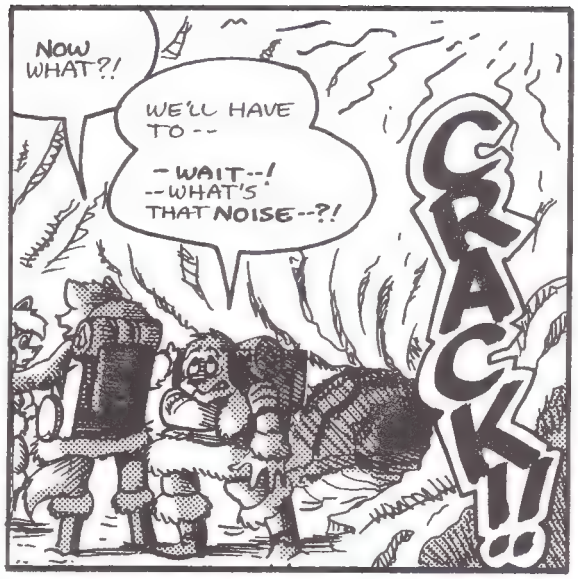

..RRRRRRRRRRR...
OH... MY...!

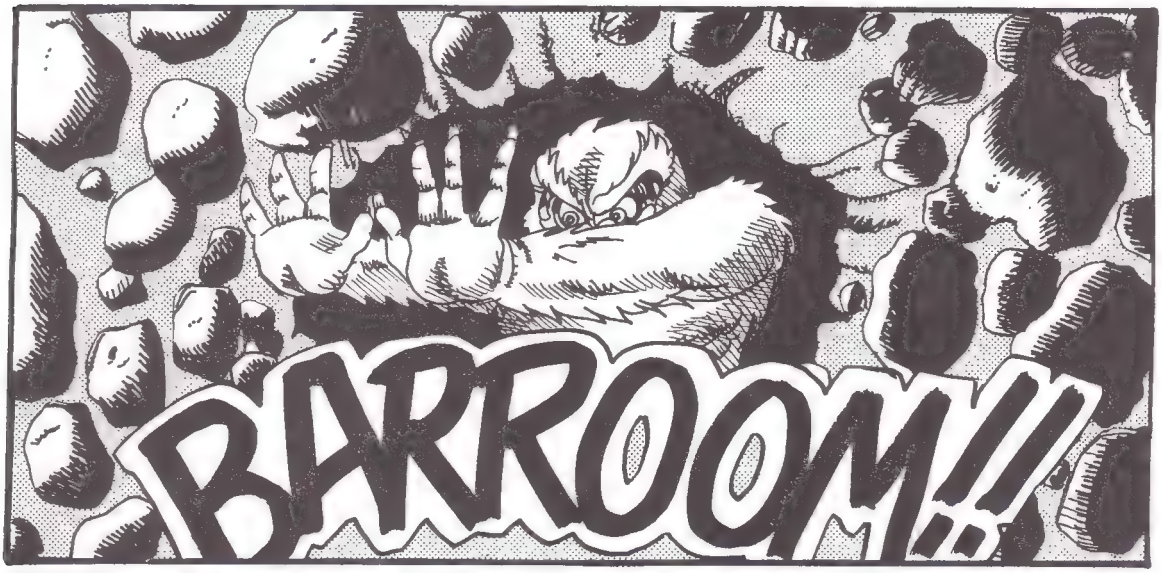
CATHERINE! OUTSIDE--!
--QUICKLY!!
BUT, DAD!
-- DON'T ARGUE!!

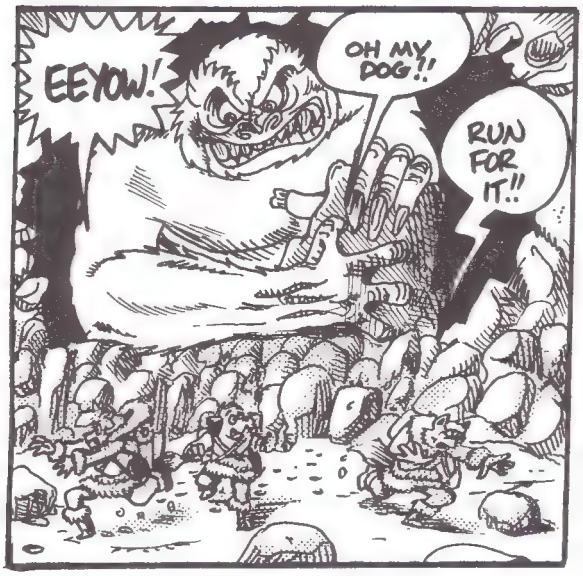
FOXX--! THE SHOTGUN--!
.. HURRY!
CLICK! CLICK!
—IT'S JAMMED, SCOTTY!

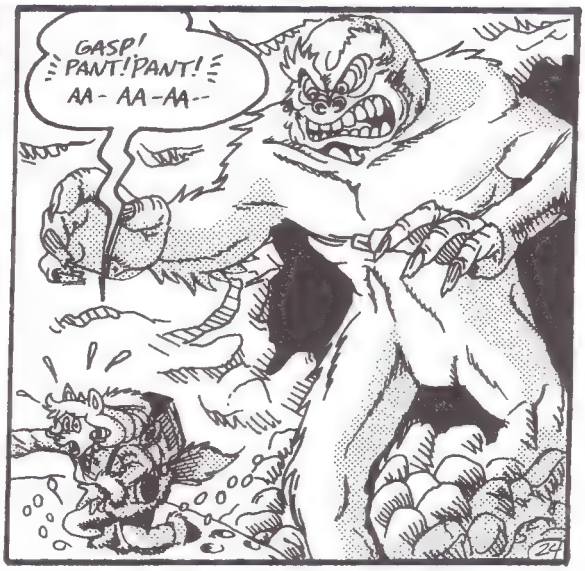

THEN— LET'S GET OUT OF HERE!!
—IT'S COMING THROUGH THE DOORWAY!!
RAWR!!

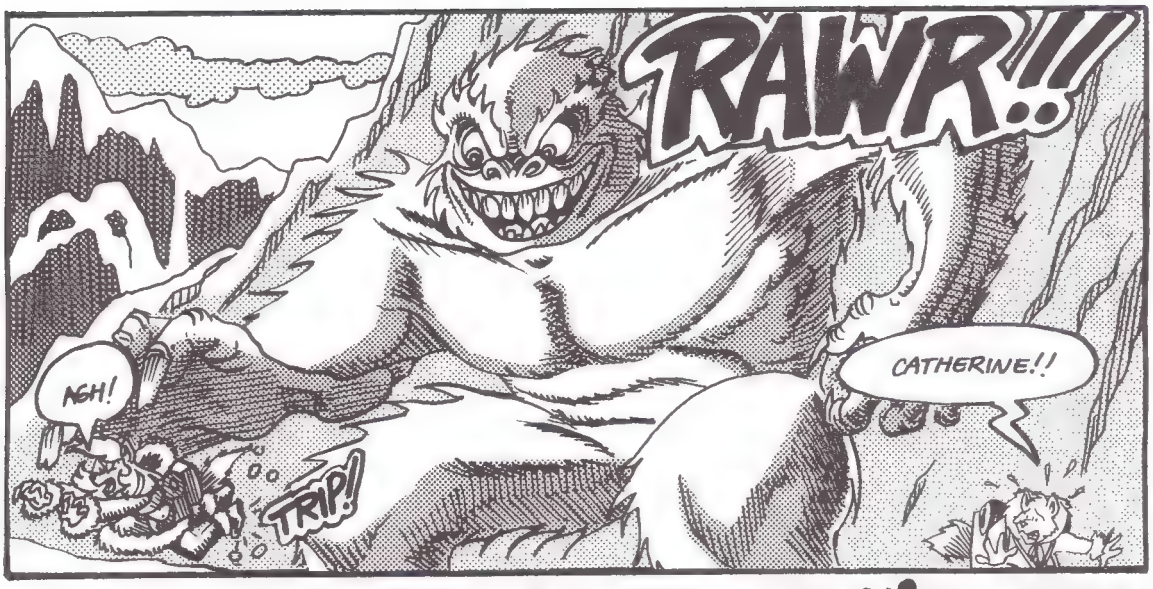

DAD!
GASP! PANT!
ONE THING'S FOR SURE-- IT'LL NEVER GET THROUGH HERE-- IT'S JUST TOO BIG--! --IT MUST HAVE ANOTHER EXIT SOMEWHERE ELSE...

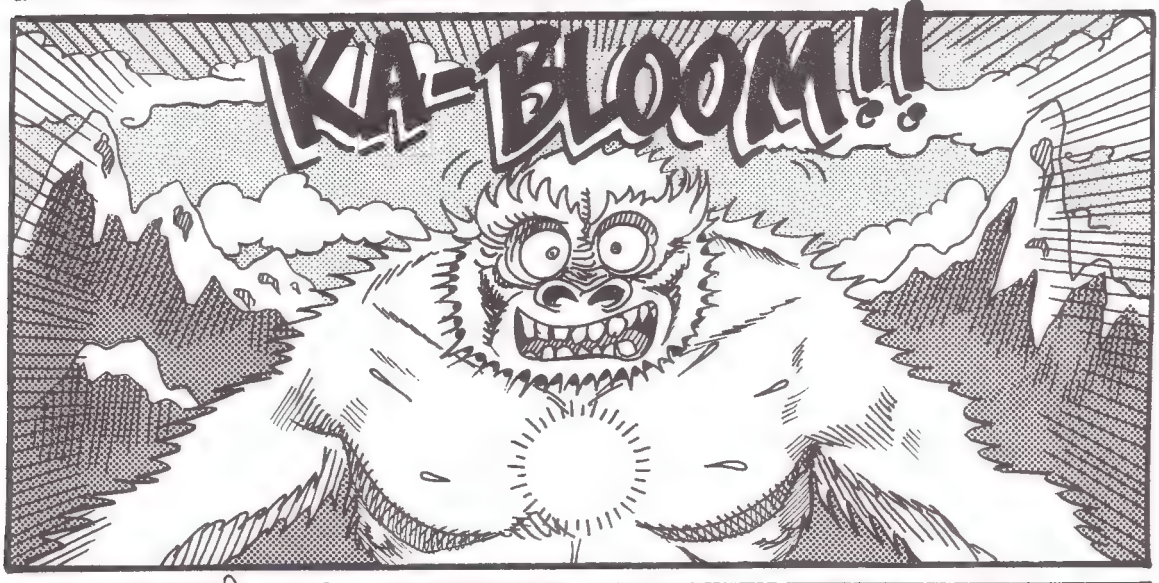

NOW WHAT?!
WE'LL HAVE TO --
-WAIT--! --WHAT'S THAT NOISE--?!
CRACK!!

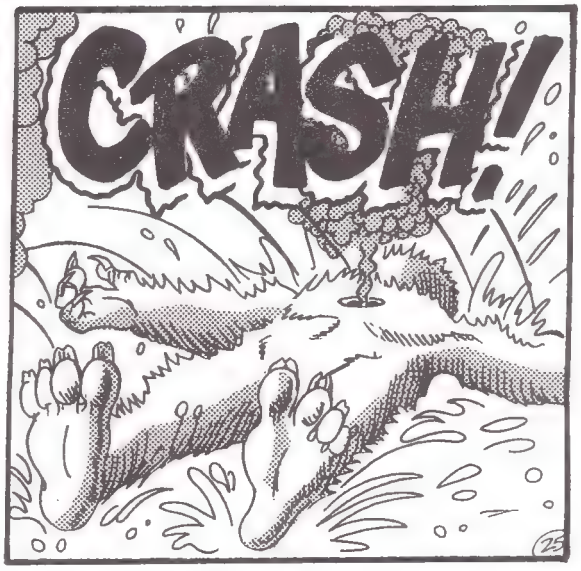

BARROOM!!!

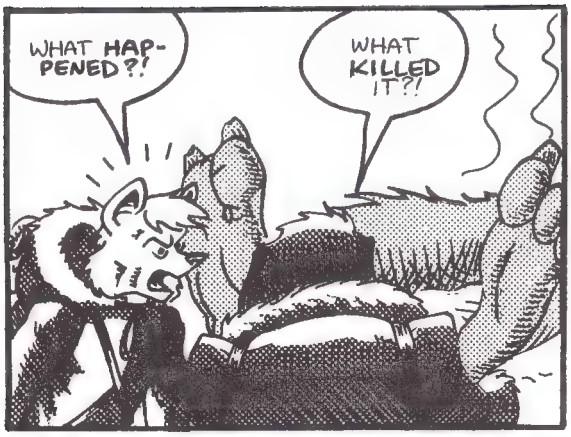

EEYOW!
OH MY DOG!!
RUN FOR IT!!

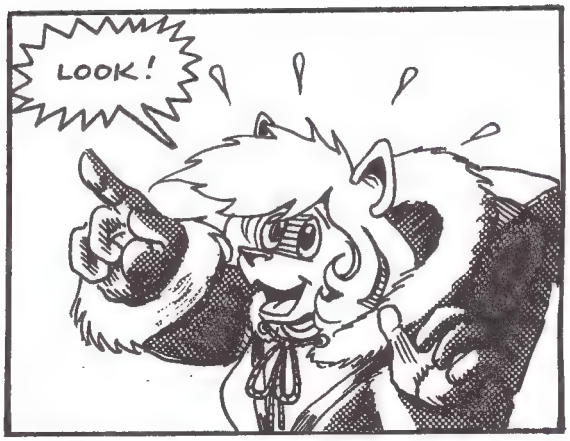

GASP! PANT! PANT! AA- AA-AA--


RAWR!!!
NGH!
TRIP!
CATHERINE!!


KA-BLOOM!!!


CRASH!

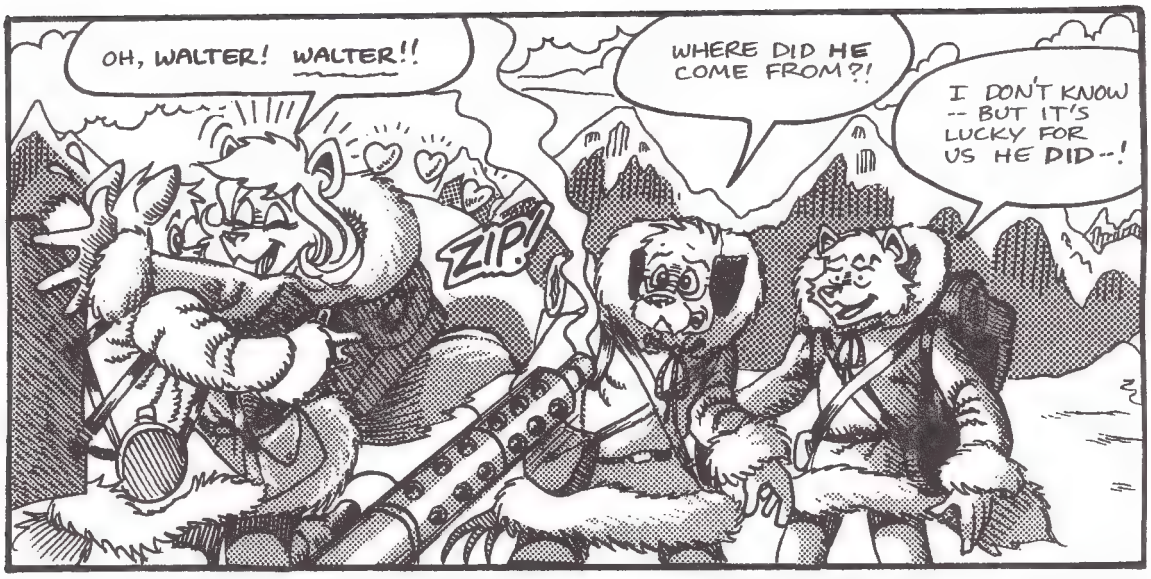




HI, GUYS!

ACME 75MM RECOILLESS RIFLE

WALTER!!


OH, WALTER! WALTER!!
ZIP!
WHERE DID HE COME FROM?!
I DON'T KNOW -- BUT IT'S LUCKY FOR US HE DID--!

WALTER-- HOW DID YOU GET HERE? --AND WITH THIS?!
WELL, IT'S A LONG STORY, DR. FOXX...

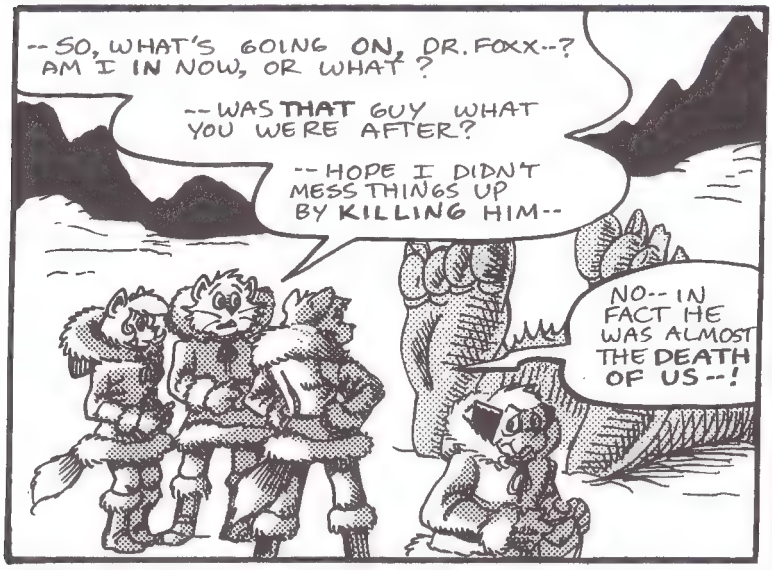
SO...
...AFTER WE ARRIVED IN CHUNGPA, I LOCATED SEVERAL PORTERS TO CARRY MY EQUIPMENT--
THEN WE JUST FOLLOWED YOU GUYS... KEEPING OUT OF SIGHT...

--BUT WHEN WE GOT TO THIS AREA, MY CARRIERS ALL DESERTED ME--!
JUST DUMPED ALL MY STUFF AND LEFT ME!
YES... THEY'RE FRIGHTENED OF THIS VALLEY...

ANYWAY, I GATHERED UP WHAT I COULD CARRY AND FOLLOWED YOU HERE...
BUT WHAT IN THE WORLD WERE YOU DOING WITH THAT BAZOOKA?!

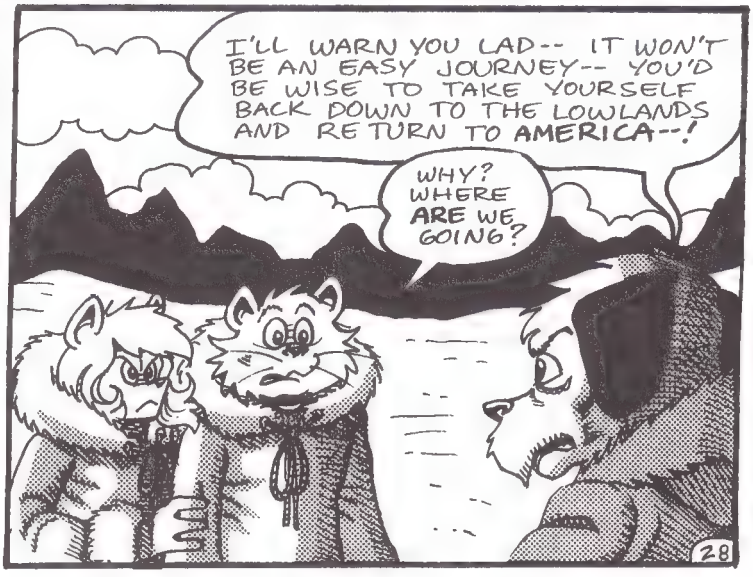
WELL, I PICKED IT UP IN A STORE IN CHUNGPA ...
--YOU'D BE AMAZED WHAT THE NATIVES CAN COME UP WITH FOR SOME COLD CASH--!!
... ANYWAY, I FIGURED I COULDN'T BE TOO CAREFUL-- WHAT WITH ALL THOSE ABOMINABLE SNOWMAN STORIES GOING AROUND!

WELL WALTER-- EVEN IF KILLING A YETI CAN'T BE CONSIDERED A SERVICE TO SCIENCE,-- I CANT SAY I'M SORRY--!
I'M GLAD YOU FOLLOWED US, BOY!
THAT'S FOR SURE!

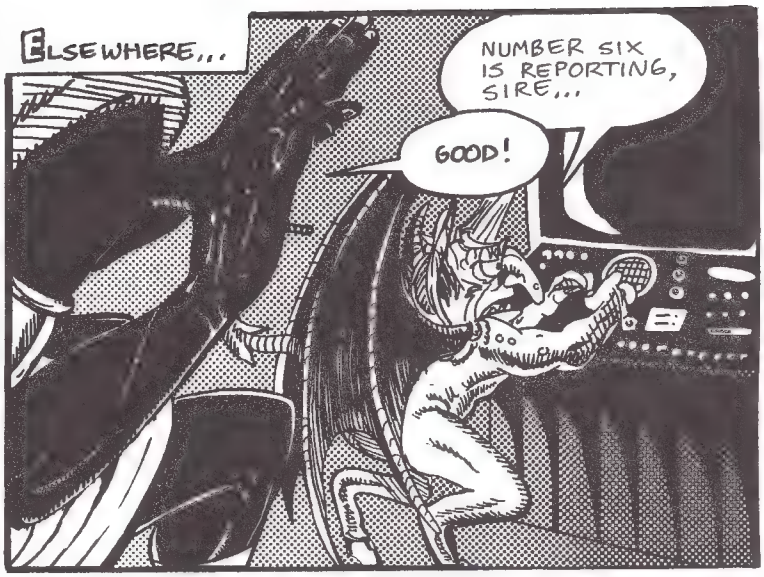

--SO, WHAT'S GOING ON, DR. FOXX--? AM I IN NOW, OR WHAT ?
--WAS THAT GUY WHAT YOU WERE AFTER?
--HOPE I DIDN'T MESS THINGS UP BY KILLING HIM--
NO-- IN FACT HE WAS ALMOST THE DEATH OF US--!

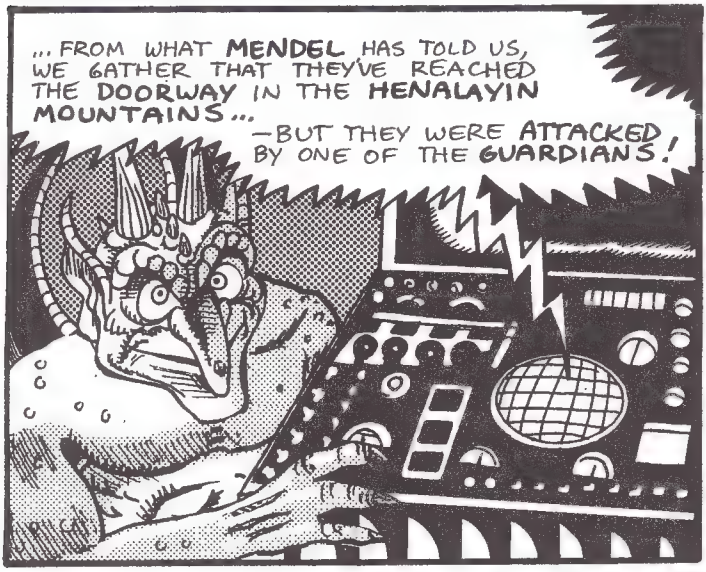
--YOU'RE WELCOME TO COME ALONG WITH US IF YOU WANT TO, WALTER..
AS LONG AS I'M WITH CATHERINE, I'M WHERE I WANT TO BE!

OH, WALTER!
SIGH!

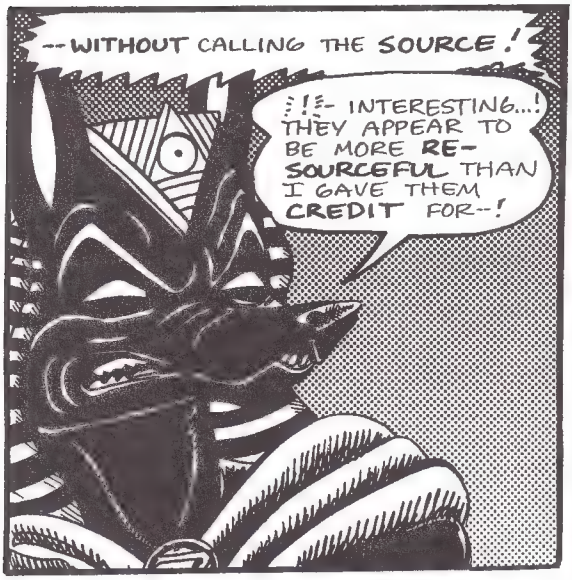

I'LL WARN YOU LAD-- IT WON'T BE AN EASY JOURNEY-- YOU'D BE WISE TO TAKE YOURSELF BACK DOWN TO THE LOWLANDS AND RETURN TO AMERICA--!
WHY? WHERE ARE WE GOING?

--INTO THE BOWELS OF THE EARTH!


ELSEWHERE...
NUMBER SIX IS REPORTING, SIRE...
GOOD!


...FROM WHAT MENDEL HAS TOLD US, WE GATHER THAT THEY'VE REACHED THE DOORWAY IN THE HENALAYIN MOUNTAINS...
—BUT THEY WERE ATTACKED BY ONE OF THE GUARDIANS!

—DID THE GIRL SURVIVE?!
YES, SIR--THEY ALL DID!
SOMEHOW, THEY MANAGED TO DISPOSE OF THE GUARDIAN--!


--WITHOUT CALLING THE SOURCE!
!!- INTERESTING...! THEY APPEAR TO BE MORE RESOURCEFUL THAN I GAVE THEM CREDIT FOR--!

ONE OTHER THING, SIR... A FOURTH MEMBER HAS JOINED THEM...
A FOURTH...? HMMM...

WHO IS THIS FOURTH PERSON?
A... YOUTH -- ABOUT HER AGE, SIRE... --SHE WAS SEEING HIM BEFORE THEY LEFT ARKVILLE...
--HIS NAME IS WALTER KITTY...
THIS IS A DEVELOPMENT I HADN'T FORESEEN!
WE'LL HAVE TO KEEP AN EYE ON THIS... WALTER KITTY...
YES, SIR...!
--NOT THAT HE'LL HAVE ANY EFFECT ON THE FINAL OUTCOME--!
HEH HEH HEH HEHHHHH!
HISS! BOO! HISS! BOO! SSSS! SSSS!!

The Kitty Box

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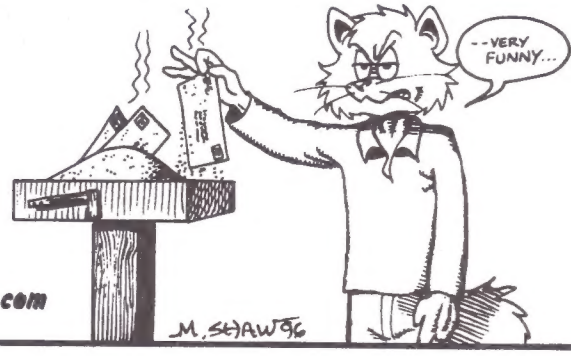

Hi, boys and girls! "Uncle" Mark here, welcoming you to the second issue of ***WALTER KITTY IN THE HOLLOW EARTH****, and our first letter page! Response to the first issue has been rather gratifying, so let's see what some of our readers have to say...*

Dear **Catherine Foxx**:

Just picked up ***The Hollow Earth* #1** at my favorite retailer store, Comics and Collectibles on Fruitridge. Would you believe they were the only retailer store that had your comic?

This comic was fun and entertaining and you had me hooked on the story as soon as **Catherine** was introduced to the Source! It had already become mystical and magical. Just like a movie, the story takes us back 12 years later and I meet the hilarious **Walter Kitty**. This character is funny as all heck! I love him!

This comic really brightened up my spirits and had humor thrown throughout the story. Suspense! It even has suspense, as Walter hears a scratching behind the door and then opening it, he gets a horrific surprise!

Action! Yes, we have action, with the bat-winged monsters as they go about doing what they know best and that is to terrify! **Catherine** is thrown into a loop as she contemplates the great responsibility that now has been bestowed upon her. I'm loving this story every minute! Cliffhangers! Holy Zazooks! Heavenly Hoares! The Gateway to the Hollow Earth! What in blazes is going to happen next?? When is the next issue coming out??

This comic was a cross between J.R.R. Tolkien's The Hobbit and Roger Rabbit, and it couldn't have been done better!! Thank you for your splendid creation and I will faithfully await the next issue!

Sincerely yours,
Paul Dale Roberts
Sacramento, CA

Thanks Paul! Glad you liked it! Hope you'll continue to enjoy Walter's adventures, as he stumbles his way into the ***Hollow Earth****!*

Dear Mark Shaw and Vision-aries:

I bought the first four Vision Comics hoping for the best from this new player in the furry comics arena. Fortunately, for the most part the Vision books have been very entertaining. Vision Comics is off to a fine start, and so is one of its most interesting titles, Mark Shaw's *The Hollow Earth*.

The Hollow Earth has a 1930's pulp feel, like Shaw's *Furrlough* serial "Bronze Fur," but with more emphasis on humor and characterization. As with "Bronze Fur," the plot of *The Hollow Earth* is hardly original, but the characters are so likable and Shaw's enthusiasm for his material is so palpable that I can't object. My only complaint (and it's a small one) is that while Shaw's artwork is very good, I wish it were more polished and less cartoony, not unlike Eric Schwartz' fine cover art. I especially think that Shaw should get rid of the omnipresent scratchy lines and use other shading techniques.

The Hollow Earth #1 sets up many mysteries which will be solved in future issues, but there are a few I'd like to bring up in this letter:

* Is **Mariana Foxx** dead, or on some higher plane of existence, or both?
* Who is the mystery woman who makes **Walter Kitty** a temporary millionaire? Is it just a coincidence that she looks like one of the demon creatures in drag?
* Was **Dr. Robert Foxx** inspired by character actor William Windom? I see a physical resemblance, and I hear Windom's voice in my mind when I read **Dr. Foxx's** dialogue.

Which brings me to my final point. Based on the first issue, *The Hollow Earth* looks like it would make an exciting animated film or TV series. If Shaw continues to mix humor and character development with the horror and action/adventure elements, I really believe that an animated *Hollow Earth* could appeal to the same audience that watched *Duck Tales*, *Tale Spin* and *SWAT Kats*. In the meantime, I'll continue to read *The Hollow Earth* with great interest.

Best wishes,
Mark Lungo
Middleburg Heights, OH

Wow! I'd like there to be an animated version of ***THE HOLLOW EARTH*** *too! Think of the money--er, I mean, the pleasure that would bring! To answer your questions, for the sake of future surprises Mariana's state must remain a mystery, at least for now. I thought the rich old lady looked more like* ***Fat Freddy's Cat****, myself! And Dr. Foxx was actually modeled after actor Patrick McGoohan- -! Good guess, though.*

That's it for this time, folks! Next issue, come along with Walter and his companions as they finally begin their underground odyssey! It's fantasy-adventure in the ***grand*** *tradition--except that it's with cats...and dogs...and foxxes...and...oh, skip it.* ***Write Us!***

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Cartoon Artwork courtesy of Tom Ziolkowski, Artist.